



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي.

5 policemen killed in south Egypt

ASSIUT (R) — Five Egyptian policemen were killed and four wounded Sunday when gunmen thought to be Muslim militants ambushed their vehicle in the southern town of Sida, security sources said. The gunmen opened fire with automatic rifles at about 3 p.m. as the vehicle was taking two police lieutenant-colonels to a residence in the town, 350 kilometres south of Cairo, the sources said. Two civilian men who were passing were wounded and the gunmen escaped in a car, they said. It was the highest casualty toll for the police this year in the long conflict with the Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group). The sources said they suspected the ambush was mounted by the Gamaa, which is especially strong in Assiut, the province that includes Sida. An interior ministry statement in Cairo gave different figures. It said the gunmen killed four policemen and wounded five, including two lieutenant-colonels posted in Sida.

Bekaa shootout kills 3 policemen

CHTAURA (AP) — Security forces armed with rocket-propelled grenades captured a suspected drug trafficker Sunday after shootouts and a hunt that left three policemen dead and one seriously wounded, police said. About 200 police and army reinforcements, backed by armoured personnel carriers, sealed off the town of Qab Elias and began a house-to-house search for the suspected drug trafficker, Shaker Omran Breidy, who allegedly opened fire on police trying to arrest him on drug charges earlier in the day. Three agents of the Interior Ministry's drug enforcement office were killed instantaneously and one was seriously injured outside Mr. Breidy's residence in Qab Elias. It was not immediately known if Mr. Breidy, who escaped after the shooting, and any accomplices. Interior Minister Bishara Marjeh travelled to eastern Lebanon and took personal command of the hunt for Mr. Breidy, vowing from the site of the shooting that "there will be no mercy for the criminals." Two hours after the earlier shooting, troops stormed Mr. Breidy's hideout in a hail of bullets, police said.

Volume 18 Number 5566

AMMAN MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1994, SHAWWAL 9, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King congratulates Sheikh Shamseddin

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Sheikh Mohammad Mahdi Shamseddin, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on being elected as president of the Lebanese higher Shiite Islamic council. "I am confident that you are pre-occupied at this current stage in the history of our nation with countering the challenges facing it and achieving its unity," King Hussein said in the cable. "This is something that we also seek to prepare the ground for a comprehensive renaissance that would renew the great Islamic history and refurbish the spirit of struggle on the basis of freedom, justice, reason and respect for human rights; this spirit was expressed by Al al-Bait when they carried out their historic roles in the most critical situations, and this is what prompted us to establish Al al-Bait University to make it an independent Islamic scientific institution," the King added, wishing Sheikh Shamseddin success in carrying out his duties.

De Klerk supporters stone Mandela car

MANENBERG, South Africa (AP) — Supporters of President F.W. de Klerk's National Party threw stones at the convoy carrying African National Congress (ANC) leader, Nelson Mandela on Sunday. Journalists saw some of the scores of National Party supporters throw stones at the row of cars entering this mixed-race settlement near Cape Town. As the convoy left after Mr. Mandela's appearance, another small stone hit his car. Earlier, scuffles erupted between National Party and ANC supporters outside another Mandela appearance.

'Terrorist' banned

AMMAN (Petra) — An official in the Films Censorship Council said Sunday a decision had been taken to stop showing the Egyptian film "The Terrorist" because the film violates the Council's standards.

Sanaa moves to isolate Aden

SANAA (R) — Yemen's foreign minister has asked foreign states to deal exclusively with his ministry in a bid to isolate southern leaders whose dispute with northern members of the government threatens to split the country. Officials said Foreign Minister Mohammad Bassemwala told Arab and Islamic ambassadors at a meeting on Saturday that his ministry in Sanaa represented the legitimate government and was responsible for running foreign affairs under the constitution. A dispute between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his Aden-based vice-president, Ali Salem Al Beedh, has crippled Yemen's government and threatened the country's unity. Visits to Arab countries by the Beedh last month were criticised by Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress Party as an attempt to side-step the foreign ministry.

U.N. chemical team heads for Iraq

MANAMA (R) — A team of U.N. chemical inspectors headed for Iraq Sunday to take environmental samples at a site where prohibited deadly gases have been destroyed, officials said. Gerald Brubaker, leading a five-member team, said they would take samples at Muthana, 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, as part of a long-term monitoring plan. U.N. chemical experts have destroyed tens of thousands of bombs, rockets and shells and hundreds of tonnes of stockpiled poisonous gases under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms stripping Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction. "It's a technical mission with a chemical nature," Mr. Brubaker, an American, said in Bahrain, the regional field headquarters for the U.N. Special Commission.

King: U.N. resolution on massacre was mishandled

Jordan decries lack of Arab coordination, to seek U.S. explanation on Jerusalem

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday he was seeking an explanation from Washington on the U.S. stand on Jerusalem following the American abstention from voting on paragraphs referring to the Holy City in Friday's United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the Feb. 25 massacre at the Hebron mosque.

The King, in an interview with the French news agency, AFP, said it was essential to ensure that the American stand vis-a-vis Jerusalem had not changed "as it did in the past when (Washington) first considered Israeli settlements (in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip) as illegal but then later changed it to view the settlements as obstacles to peace."

The King said the lack of inter-Arab coordination was to be blamed for the U.S. abstention during Friday's voting and that the state of affairs in the Arab scene had led to the mishandling of the Security Council resolution.

"The lack of inter-Arab coordination in critical and difficult circumstances could lead to big losses and negative consequences for higher Arab interests," the King said.

"Arabs have failed to crystallise a coordinated and integrated stand that reflects the serious endeavours to reach a just, comprehensive and durable peace which future generations would accept," the King said, adding that the current Arab situation only served Israeli interests.

The King said the U.S. abstention during Friday's voting could have been avoided by not mentioning Jerusalem at all in the resolution and by only referring to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 as the areas where the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable.

Observers said that such an approach, coordinated among the Arabs at the U.N., would not have brought up the subject of Jerusalem at all in the context of the resolution and would have closed the door for the U.S. to cast what could be a precedent-setting vote on the Holy City in the Security Council.

Until Friday's resolution, there was no precedent to cast any doubt on the decades-old U.S. stand that Jerusalem is occupied territory.

In his comments Sunday, the King expressed surprise at the

wording of the resolution, which was debated in detail between the Palestinian and American sides as well as others.

King Hussein noted that Jordan was not a party to those debates. He recalled that he had launched urgent contacts with some Arab leaders in a bid to come up with a common Arab position to avert an American abstention only hours before the vote was taken on Friday.

In the general context, the King said Israel was totally responsible for the Feb. 25 massacre at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron. "As an occupying power, Israel has been responsible for a series of crimes, starting with the 1969 arson at Al Aqsa Mosque, attacks on Christian holy places and the repeated assaults on the Ibrahim Mosque which culminated in the 15th of Ramadan massacre of Muslim worshippers there," the King said.

The Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Sunday condemned the United States position towards two clauses in the Security Council resolution referring to the status of Jerusalem and the call to provide international

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Norwegian-mediated plan seen key to lifting logjam

From Lami Andoni in Boston

THE PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel were expected to reach a compromise to stalled talks based on a Norwegian initiative that involves the acceleration of Israeli withdrawal and joint security arrangements in the occupied territories, according to Palestinian officials in Tunis and Jerusalem.

A top-level Israeli delegation arrived in Tunis last night for discussions based on the four-point Norwegian initiative that gives priority to ensuring protection to Palestinians in the West Bank town of Hebron, where a Jewish settler slaughtered dozens of worshippers on Feb. 25, and calls for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho a week after the resumption of talks.

"The idea is to get an

Israeli withdrawal started even prior to the actual Israeli-Palestinian agreement over Palestinian autonomy to defuse the tension in the occupied territories and regain faith in the process among the Palestinians," a PLO official explained.

The Norwegian initiative suggests joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols in Hebron under an international command. According to Tunis-based officials, however, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will suggest the setting up of a joint PLO-Israeli operation committee to follow-up security measures in Hebron.

They said that both Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had discussed the Norwegian "ideas" in telephone conversations at length last week. "Rabin was very positive on the telephone with Arafat. But he was unclear on what kind of security arrangements he was ready to accept," said a close aide to Mr. Arafat.

Priority on withdrawal Norway, the country that hosted secret negotiations that culminated in the historic Israel-PLO accord signed in September, has suggested that an Israeli withdrawal start a week after resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

"Arafat says that Rabin was extremely positive, but the Israeli prime minister declined to commit himself to any specific steps, said an aide of Mr. Arafat who asked not to be named.

The main priority for the PLO remains addressing the highly explosive situation in Hebron. "At this moment Hebron comes first. There will not be 'Jericho and Gaza first' without solving the situation in Hebron," said Arafat's aide.

The PLO remains hesitant to resume the negotiations even after the passing of a

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U.S. sends Ross to Tunis

TUNIS (Agencies) — The United States is sending its Middle East peace coordinator back to Tunis for talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, PLO officials said on Sunday.

U.S. embassy official confirmed envoy Dennis Ross would be in Tunis on Monday, his second visit in a week.

An Israeli team arrived in the Tunisian capital on Sunday evening hoping to persuade the PLO to resume peace talks.

The talks on implementing Palestinian self-rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho were suspended by the PLO after a Jewish settler shot dead dozens of worshippers at a Hebron mosque last month.

PLO officials said the meeting would focus on security measures for the protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories to pave the way for the resumption of talks.

The Jerusalem issue was vital, the PLO leadership said after meeting in Tunis.

The U.N. resolution as a whole was adopted Friday night without a vote after the United States, in prior balloting on individual paragraphs, abstained on two. The council's 14 other members voted for every paragraph.

The United States abstained on a section affirming Jerusalem's status as part of the Israeli-occupied territories.

The United States, which previously supported resolutions calling the city part of the occupied territories, argues its status should be decided at a later stage of negotiations on the Israel-PLO peace accord.

The other U.S. abstention was on a paragraph referring to "occupied Palestinian territory" rather than "territories." The United States says this could be taken to indicate sovereignty or statehood — another issue subject to future negotiations.

The resolution strongly condemned the Feb. 25 massacre and called for a temporary international presence to ensure Palestinians' security in the occupied lands.

The U.S. position on Jerusalem also drew attacks from Palestinian groups based in Syria and a senior official of the Arab League.

In Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the Organisation of Islamic Conference expressed satisfaction with the U.N. resolution. But Hamid Al Gabid, OIC secretary general, urged the Security Council to immediately put the resolution into effect.

He urged that such assaults as the Hebron massacre be prevented by "providing the necessary international protection that will guarantee the safety and security of the Palestinian nation throughout the occupied territories."

In Dubai, the government-owned Al Bayan newspaper

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His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday speaks with one of the Palestinians wounded in the Feb. 25 attack by a Jewish settler on the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron

Mosque in Hebron and now hospitalised in Jordan (see page 10) (AFP photo)

Arafat, Peres may meet in Paris on Thursday

Israel offers to accelerate pullout

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres may meet this week to finalise plans for Palestinian autonomy, and Israelis are offering to speed up withdrawal if agreement is reached, cabinet ministers said Sunday.

Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet said that a phone conversation Saturday between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Arafat prepared the ground for the meeting in Paris. Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres are due to participate in a meeting there Thursday of donors who have pledged money to support Palestinian self-rule.

The withdrawal could be accomplished within two or three weeks if an agreement is reached, Mr. Peres told reporters. "It can be done in a rather short time."

The two sides were close to an agreement last month, when the talks were stopped after an Israeli settler killed dozens of Palestinian worshippers in a Hebron mosque.

"Today (in Tunis) is one of the crucial decisions and meet-

ings," said Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer.

"I hope this meeting will lead to a meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres within the end of this week," he told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

Mr. Peres said no decision had been taken on meeting Mr. Arafat.

"We will see what is decided in Tunis, but I do not foresee that the issues will be easy or simply," Mr. Peres told reporters.

Israel said that in the Tunis talks on Sunday it would discuss protecting Palestinians, hoping to revive the negotiations the PLO suspended last month after the massacre.

Mr. Peres said the Tunis talks would be "a first, very cautious step on a quite winding and complex path. I don't think it can be completed in one step."

Israel and the PLO welcomed Friday's U.N. Security Council resolution on the massacre as a way to revive peace talks.

Uri Savir, the foreign ministry director-general heading

Israel's team at the Tunis talks, said Israel would comply with the resolution's demand that it guarantee the safety of Palestinians and allow a temporary international presence. He was speaking before the team's departure for Tunis.

Under the original timetable of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord, troop withdrawal was to be completed by April 13. But the planned pull out did not start on time due to differences on security and borders, so its completion date had been thrown into question.

The PLO is demanding increased security for the Palestinians in the occupied territories before autonomy talks can resume. Some of their demands were met by the U.N. Security Council resolution passed Friday, which called for unarmed observers to help protect the Palestinians.

Mr. Peres repeated an Israeli proposal for redeployment of about 80 Palestinian police who worked for the Israeli government before 1987 when they were forced to re-

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Violence continues in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded nine Palestinians, and stone-throwers injured an Israeli motorist, during clashes on Sunday in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Violence in the occupied territories has surged since the massacre of dozens of Palestinians by a Jewish settler in the West Bank city of Hebron on Feb. 25.

Witnesses said two Palestinians were hurt when Israeli border policemen, attacked by assailants with firearms, returned fire. The policemen missed the men but shot two men in another car, one a blind man who was seriously wounded, the witnesses said.

Palestinian reporters said Ahmad Eleiwa, 28, from Gaza Strip was seriously wounded in the head in the exchange of gunfire.

The reporters said Eleiwa, a blind university student, was apparently hit riding in a taxi on his way to class. The reporters added that Eleiwa was taken by the army to an Israeli hospital.

Military officials said it was unclear which side fired the shots that injured the men.

Palestinians said troops shot and wounded four youths in Hebron, another in Nablus in the West Bank and two Palestinians in Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

Military officials said the Israeli motorist was slightly wounded by a block thrown at him in the West Bank town of Ramallah. They said Arab residents helped him to the police station while others set fire to his car.

a Gaza City street Sunday, announcing they killed the pair for allegedly collaborating with Israel and selling drugs. Arab reporters said.

Palestinian reporters identified the two killed as Mohammad Naji, 40, and Zarifa Zaatar, 44, both from Gaza City and both abducted last week. Zaatar was shot twice in the head, hospital official said.

Activists from Hamas used loudspeakers in the city to announce that both Naji and Zaatar were killed because they "admitted to collaborating with Israeli authorities and sold drugs."

Sunday's killings raised the number of Palestinians killed by Hamas as suspected informers this month to eight.

Since the start of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987, over 820 Palestinians have been killed by fellow Palestinians not of them as suspected collaborators. Human rights organisations have condemned the killings, saying the charge is often used to cover tribal or personal feuds.

In a sign of the crisis ebbing since the Feb. 25 massacre, the army eased curfew restrictions in Hebron, allowing more residents to move about the streets of Hebron without stopped by soldiers. Residents fewer soldiers were visible, more shops open and taxis operating.

Army sources said the army was lifting the curfew in stages to avoid new outbreaks.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal proposed to the cabinet that Israel offer aid to Palestinian families in the occupied territories hit financially by the long-term curfew and a closure that bars many Arabs from jobs in Israel. He estimated it would cost about 20 million shekels (\$6.5 million) monthly.

Goldstein 'normal' before massacre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A security guard who drove Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein to the Ibrahim Mosque where he killed dozens of Muslims said in testimony on Sunday the gunman was in a "normal state" and there was no talk of revenge.

The guard, Motti Unger, was among seven people testifying before a commission of inquiry set up after the Feb. 25 slaughter in Hebron that led to an abrupt halt to Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace talks.

They were asked if other settlers helped Goldstein, what type of weapon he carried and how he entered the prayer hall where he killed the Muslim worshippers.

Their accounts cast some light on the mysteries surrounding the massacre, but contradicted some earlier accounts.

Unger said Goldstein was in a "normal state" when he drove him to the mosque and did not say anything unusual.

"He did not have moderate opinions. You could say he did not like Arabs, but there was no talk of revenge."

He said Goldstein asked him to deliver his keys to his mailbox at home. But he did not think this was unusual because he assumed Goldstein, who was dressed in an army uniform, was going on reserve duty.

When Unger brought the keys back, Goldstein's wife asked where her husband was. Unger told her Goldstein was praying at the mosque, holy to Muslims and Arabs.

Settler Ilan Tor, who spoke to Goldstein before the massacre, told the inquiry the 12 Jews praying in a hall next to where the massacre took place

had definitely not helped Goldstein push open a locked door to the Muslim prayer hall.

Tor and Unger said the killer carried an Israeli Glib sub-machinegun, contradicting earlier testimony by two soldiers who said he entered with a U.S.-made M-16 assault rifle.

The army had said Goldstein fired more than 100 bullets from a M16.

Judge Abdul Rahman Zoubi, the only Arab on the five-member commission, asked Tor if Goldstein had an accomplice.

Tor said: "I was not an eyewitness. I was in Abraham hall. I heard a number of quick bursts of gunfire. Then I did not hear any more shots. The bursts I heard were from the same weapon."

Many Palestinian witnesses and the army said earlier that Goldstein acted alone but some Palestinians alleged that other settlers helped Goldstein when he fired.

Tor said Goldstein was "agitated" when he entered Abraham hall minutes before the massacre, but Tor said his behaviour was not unusual and did not raise suspicion.

"He asked me, 'why are the doors (between Abraham and Isaac halls) closed?' I said it is Ramadan. Then he said, 'but it is Purim today.'" Tor told the panel of judges.

Jews were celebrating their festival of Purim on the day of the massacre while hundreds of Muslims came for Friday prayers during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Tor said it was clear the closed door annoyed Goldstein.

"What he was saying here was, 'They have a holiday but it is also a holiday for us'."

Algerian leaders deny differences

PARIS (Agencies) — Algerian Prime Minister Redha Malek and army leaders denied Saturday press reports of official differences on how to face the political violence and social crisis racking the country.

The Algerian news agency APS quoted statements issued by Algeria's premier and army officials as saying there were no political "differences" between civilian and military leaders.

"I would like to affirm that... there is constant coordination between the president (Liamine Zeroual) and myself on the action in the field," APS quoted Mr. Malek as saying.

"The struggle against the barbarian terrorism implicates all state institutions."

Officials label as "terrorists" Muslim fundamentalist militants blamed for a wave of violence that in the last two years has killed more than 3,000 people, among them foreigners, members of the security forces, civilians and Muslim militants.

The Algerian daily Al Watan on Saturday strongly criticised the call for political dialogue made recently by Mr. Zeroual.

"Zeroual's decision of continuing the political dialogue with the ex-Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders in jail might endanger the army's unity," Al Watan said.

The president said on Friday he would start talks next week with leaders of political and social organisations.

"The question is whether the army would guarantee an approach that may lead, in the coming months, to Algeria's disappearance?" Al Watan added.

Mr. Zeroual's call for dialogue did not mention whether it would be extended to the leaders of the banned FIS.

"The armed forces' role is to stay constantly at the disposal of the state authorities in charge of political power," APS quoted the Peoples' National Army (ANP) statement as saying.

The ANP expresses "its confidence in President Zeroual's delicate mission," the statement added.

In January a national conference designed to find ways of halting the crisis in the country of 26 million was boycotted by the opposition and representatives of the banned FIS.

There have been unconfirmed reports that Mr. Zeroual is negotiating secretly to draw the banned Islamic Salvation Front into some sort of transitional coalition government.

Mr. Zeroual was named to head the army-backed government at the end of January after talks with the opposition collapsed. Since then, violence has persisted, culminating in an attack by militants on a prison March 10, freeing hundreds of inmates.

Security forces have since killed dozens of the escapees. Gunmen entered the Algiers area home of Yahia Djamel Benazghou on Saturday and killed him, a hospital source said.

There was no claim of responsibility for the slaying of Benazghou, 52, who was a friend of Prime Minister Malek. He was the 12th journalist slain since May last year.

The slaying came less than 24 hours after the Armed Islamic Group threatened new attacks on journalists and foreigners.

The group said in a message that it "opposes any dialogue, reconciliation or truce" with the government.

Four other people were killed since Wednesday, including a prosecutor, the leader of the mosque and a woman near a medical clinic, officials said. Three other people were wounded.

Overnight Friday, militants burned an 11-car train 60 kilometres east of Algiers after forcing the 300 passengers to get out, security forces said Saturday.

Egypt to rebuild Amon Ra temple

CAIRO (R) — After years of indecision, Egypt is to dismantle a threatened 2,600-year-old temple to the pharaonic god Amon Ra and rebuild it, probably on a site nearby.

The remote temple, with its avenue of sphinxes leading to pylons (gateways) and a sequence of three pillared halls before the sanctuary, is at Hihis in the western oasis of Kharga.

The building, which is complete, with extensively decorated reliefs and inscriptions, is in serious danger from ground water and Egyptologists believe urgent action is needed.

The project will be the most ambitious of its kind in Egypt since the operation to save more than a dozen temples of Nubia, including that of Abu Simbel, from the waters rising behind the newly built Aswan High Dam in the 1960s.

Ali Hassan, head of the pharaonic section at the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, said the organisation had decided to award a 25 million pound (\$7.4 million) contract for the work to the Italian company Condotte Mazzi Estero Spa.

Once the company dismantles the temple, it will test the site to see if it can strengthen the foundations and rebuild the temple in exactly the same position.

"If not, if the subsoil water prevents them from doing that, we will move the temple 300 metres to higher ground," Mr. Hassan told Reuters in an interview.

Mr. Hassan said the fate of the temple had been in the balance since 1975, when it became clear that recently introduced agriculture around the temple was damaging the structure.

The foundations have in fact been weak from the start — work on the building began under the 26th dynasty (664-525 BC) and in the 4th century B.C. wooden clamps and hut-

treasures were added in an attempt to correct some subsidence.

Now there are cracks in the walls. Wooden beams support some of the walls and pieces of masonry are falling off.

"We have to do something. If there was an earthquake, it would turn the temple into powder," Mr. Hassan said.

"Since 1975 we have been discussing it at hundreds of meetings but they never succeeded because there was always this dilemma — whether to move the temple or to leave it in its original place," he added.

Mr. Hassan said he personally would rather see the temple rebuilt on its present site. "I have the feeling there's maybe a 30 per cent chance of this. This is my hope and my desire which I am fighting for, even if we have to pay more money to the company to help them go ahead," he said.

If the experts do decide it has to move, they will have it rebuilt with its axis in the same direction and aligned in much the same way in relation to a sacred lake nearby and to the desert landscape around it.

None of the bombs scored direct hits or caused any casualties, according to witnesses. But they did leave huge craters near their targets and showed Gen. Dostum is still capable of air raids.

A peace delegation made up of military and political figures from southwest Afghanistan was meeting at the Inter-Continental Hotel at the time of the attack.

It contains an inscription from AD 68 with unique information about the rights of women, probably derived from ancient Egyptian texts, Mr. Hassan said.

The temple lies 520 kilometres south of Cairo and about 170 kilometres from the Nile Valley.

The work is expected to take about 30 months to complete.

Dostum jet attacks presidential palace

KABUL (Agencies) — A warlord's jet fighters bombed near the presidential palace on Sunday, and rocket fire between rival factions left at least 100 injured elsewhere in the capital.

The bombing raids by warlord Rashid Dostum's pilots marked the first air strike on the capital in about six weeks. General Dostum has a limited number of working planes and they have not been particularly effective in his efforts to oust President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The president's army has been under attack since Jan. 1 by the combined forces of Gen. Dostum and renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. The president still holds most of the capital despite the intense fighting that has left more than 1,000 dead and 12,000 injured.

Gen. Dostum's jets targeted the presidential palace and the Defence Ministry in the city centre, as well as the Inter-Continental Hotel, where the president and his top assistants sometimes hold meetings.

None of the bombs scored direct hits or caused any casualties, according to witnesses. But they did leave huge craters near their targets and showed Gen. Dostum is still capable of air raids.

A peace delegation made up of military and political figures from southwest Afghanistan was meeting at the Inter-Continental Hotel at the time of the attack.

The former five-star hotel, set on a hilltop overlooking northwest Kabul, has gaping holes from previous rocket attacks. It has few guests, but is still used as a meeting place.

Meanwhile, rockets and machine-gun fire in the hard-hit eastern and southern edges of the city left at least one dead and 100 injured, according to hospital workers.

Hospitals are the only institutions that can provide reasonable accurate casualty counts in Kabul. But they inevitably understate the actual toll because some of the wounded are unable to reach hospitals and most families bury their dead immediately.

There are a number of Afghan groups trying to broker a peace accord, but they are having no success.

The rival factions, allied when they ousted a communist government in April 1992, have been battling each other for the past two years. Much of the capital has been flattened and hundreds of thousands have been driven from their homes.

Sunday's air attack appeared to be in retaliation for a reported early morning bombing of the Charasyah base outside Kabul held by Mr. Hekmatyar.

Mr. Rabbani's jets had earlier attacked three transport planes unloading supplies at Charasyah, said commander Zalmay of Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party. Six bombs were dropped near Charasyah, he said.

last October after 18 American soldiers died in battle with Somali militia in Mogadishu.

The battle also brought Americans the shocking image of a captured U.S. helicopter pilot being interrogated by Somalis.

"I regret that we had to lose lives to do what we came to do," said Captain Mark A. Kromer, 27, one of those leaving aboard the boat.

Capt. Kromer, who is returning to his post at Fort Riley, Kansas, is one of tens of thousands of servicemen and women who have served in Somalia since Americans first arrived on Dec. 9, 1992. At the peak of the deployment, in January 1993, more than 20,000 were in the country.

Their mission was to open supply routes and get food past handouts and militia to the millions of people starving in the southern half of the country, where more than 350,000 people had died of hunger, disease and warfare the preceding year.

The United States turned the mission over to the United Nations last May. A month later, the operation turned into a small-scale war when 24 Pakistani peacekeepers were killed by Somali gunmen in a series of ambushes.

Forty Americans were killed in combat or accidents. The last seven died last week when their AC-130H aerial gunship crashed off the coast of Kenya.

Perhaps as a hint of what is to come, a two-storey villa housing some of the 311 Nepalese peacekeepers in Mogadishu was attacked before dawn by a barrage of three rocket-propelled grenades.

No peacekeepers were hurt, but a Somali guard was critically injured.

A Nepalese spokesman said the contingent had received a written threat of retribution unless it released four Somalis its men arrested earlier in the week for pointing a weapon at a guard at a checkpoint.

U.S. withdrawal from Somalia nearing end

MOGADISHU (AP) — An aging cruise liner ended out of Mogadishu's port Saturday, carrying 156 American servicemen and women in faded luxury on the first leg of their return home.

As the American withdrawal from Somalia nears its end, the Mediterranean Sea, which once plied tourist routes between Greece and Italy, sailed under lease to the U.S. government for the last time.

Another 68 soldiers left by air for Dover air force base, Delaware, crammed among cargo aboard a C-5A Galaxy, one of a fleet of the giant planes that has been removing troops and material since January.

The rest of the 1,500 U.S. troops in Somalia will leave next week. Their commander, Major General Thomas R. Montgomery, will leave Friday.

Also drawing to a close is the participation in the U.N. mission by a number of other Western countries. The last German troops left Somalia on Friday, and 440 remaining Italians will be gone by Wednesday.

The remaining U.N. force will be made up of about 19,000 mostly Asian and African troops.

The Italians and Germans left behind tonnes of food and equipment for use by U.N. and private aid agencies, but Somali looters swarmed over the surplus stockpiles almost as soon as the troops left their camps. Reporters also saw Egyptian U.N. peacekeepers carting away some of the booty.

The Mediterranean Sea is one of two ships that have ferried U.S. troops since February from Mogadishu to the Kenyan port of Mombasa, a day's sail south. Once there, the soldiers board planes for home.

The withdrawal is scheduled to be completed, six days ahead of the March 31 deadline set by President Clinton

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE cabinet change said to be imminent

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan was quoted on Sunday as saying that a cabinet reshuffle in the UAE might be imminent. He said in an interview with the London-based Al Hayat newspaper, also published by the official Emirates News Agency WAM, that in most countries cabinet changes have to take place. Asked if there was a possibility of a near future cabinet reshuffle in the UAE, Sheikh Zayed said: "Yes". The last cabinet reshuffle in the UAE was in 1990. In February Oil Minister Yousef Ben Omeir Ben Yousef, who was appointed in 1990, resigned and Health Minister Ahmad Ben Said Al Badi was named as acting oil minister.

Dalai Lama begins visit to Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama began a five-day visit to Israel on Sunday, saying he hoped to promote religious harmony among Jews, Muslim and Christians. The Dalai Lama, the Buddhist "God-king" who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, was in Israel as guest of the Society for the Protection of Nature. He was due to meet leaders of all three faiths, receive an honorary fellowship from Hebrew University and visit holy sites. The Society for the Protection of Nature said he was invited to take part in its 40th anniversary celebration as a world figure in the areas of conservation and ecology. The Dalai Lama has been in exile in India since a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese troops.

Manila to pay fine for Somali-held Filipinos

MANILA (R) — The Philippines will pay the fine demanded by Somali militiamen for the release of 25 Filipino crewmen on a Taiwanese trawler caught poaching in Somali waters. Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo said on Sunday, Mr. Romulo, interviewed on private Manila radio DZXL, said Manila would seek reimbursement from the shipowners. The foreign office said the Filipinos were arrested by Militiamen last month while illegally fishing off the coast in northeastern Somalia. Mr. Romulo did not say how much the Somalis were demanding. Manila newspapers, quoting diplomatic reports, said the amount was \$20,000. Mr. Romulo said the amount was not a ransom but "a fine" for intrusion into Somali waters. "We will go after the owners," he said, without identifying them. Officials have not released the name of the vessel.

Thais consult with Israel over bomb plot

BANGKOK (R) — Senior Thai police officers have consulted Israeli embassy officials after the discovery of a one-tonne truck bomb which police suspect was intended for an attack on the mission. The Thai officers met diplomats for two hours on Saturday afternoon, an Israeli embassy official said on Sunday. The official refused to comment on local newspaper reports that Israel was sending experts to help Thai police investigating the bungled plot. Police stumbled upon the bomb on Thursday when they found a water tank containing explosives and detonators and a body in the back of a truck which they had impounded and parked outside a police station on March 11. Earlier on that day the rented truck had been involved in a minor traffic accident several hundred metres from the Israeli embassy in central Bangkok. The man driving at the time, whom witnesses described as of Middle Eastern appearance, fled on foot.

Algeria denies seeking extradition from Sofia

PARIS (R) — Algeria's Foreign Ministry on Saturday said four Algerians seeking political asylum in Bulgaria had never been sentenced to death and no demand had been made for them to be extradited. "Contrary to the information published by Bulgarian press, Algeria made no demand for the extradition of the four Algerian citizens... (and) they were not under any death sentence," the Algerian news agency APS quoted the ministry as saying. APS monitored in Paris said an official denial would be issued by the Algerian embassy in Sofia. Last Tuesday, four Algerians named as Mohammed Benoua, Lahcen Chahebi, Jamel Hamed and Daoud Oken were held at Sofia airport on arrival from Morocco. They were threatened with expulsion to Algeria, where they said military courts had sentenced them to death. French lawyer Jacques Verges had appealed to Bulgaria not to deport them. Mr. Verges, an outspoken lawyer, has recently acted for Algerian Muslim fundamentalists arrested in France.

Kuwait doctors plan Gulf skin bank

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti doctors would like to set up a "skin bank" in the emirate as a support unit for burn surgery in Gulf Arab countries, a newspaper reported on Sunday. We hope to set up plans for a 'skin bank' centre in Kuwait for all the GCC states," Abdul Redha Lari, president of the Kuwait Society of Plastic Surgeons, was quoted as saying by the English-language Arab Times. At present hospitals in the region have to use skin banks in Europe and the United States. Dr. Lari said at a meeting in Kuwait of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Association of Plastic Surgeons. The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. "The centre, which would accept both cadaver and donated skin, is badly needed due to the many burns cases being treated through... hospitals in the GCC region," Dr. Lari said. The newspaper said burns cases had risen in Kuwait in recent years because of injuries sustained by residents during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation and due to injuries caused by explosions of left-over mines following the emirate's Gulf war liberation.

Kurdish spring turns violent in Germany

BERLIN (AP) — Over 80 German police were injured in battles with Kurds demonstrating for an independent homeland during the Kurdish spring festival, police said Sunday. The clashes took place Saturday in widely separate Berlin and Bavaria. At least two Kurds were injured in Berlin when their clothes caught fire as they used firebombs, and in the Bavarian city of Augsburg two Kurds were injured, police said. Police in Berlin and Augsburg said altogether 24 Kurds were held to face riot charges, and 516 others had details of their identities taken to face possible charges of assault, theft, disturbing the peace and immigration violations.

Kuwait court drops demand to recall assault victim; Farhats press campaign

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Kuwaiti appeals court has dropped its demand that a Lebanese woman reappear in court to testify in the appeal hearing of a former Kuwaiti police officer who has been convicted of murdering her father and brother but acquitted of charges of raping her, a family member said Sunday.

Naimat Farhat, 35, who now lives in the U.S., was asked by the court to reappear during a hearing last month, but the woman, who is half paralysed by injuries she sustained during the four-year-old attack on her residence in Kuwait, refused to do so, said her brother Naim, a California art dealer.

"Obviously they wanted to put her through further humiliation and insult, and she refused," Mr. Farhat told the Jordan Times over the phone.

He said the family had sought official American government intervention in the matter and the State Department got in touch with the concerned parties.

"Subsequently, the court said there was a mistake in the proceedings and there was no need for her to appear in court," said Mr. Farhat.

International human rights organisations and lawyers unions have denounced the ori-

ginal ruling of a Kuwaiti court that found Jaber Al Omairi guilty of killing Ismail Farhat and Osama Farhat but cleared him of charges of raping Naimat Farhat.

According to Miss Farhat, who at that time was 32, Mr. Omairi forced his way into the Farhat residence on March 2, 1991, in the closing days of the war to end the Iraqi occupation of the emirate, bound her father and brother, raped her twice, killed the father and brother, and slashed her in the head.

Ms. Farhat survived the attack and was transferred to the U.S. where she now lives with her brother and the rest of the family.

The Farhats, who brought heavy pressure on the Kuwaiti government to have Mr. Omairi tried, have described the verdict as unjust since the court rejected the rape charge and held back the death penalty saying the killings were motivated by "patriotism" because he suspected the family of collaborating with the Iraqi occupiers.

The Farhats said that senior Kuwaiti officials had ordered the killings and that the Kuwaiti government and judiciary had made Mr. Omairi a scapegoat and covered up the role of others who were indirectly involved in the assault on the family. The defendant, who was

sentenced to life, is appealing the case in the supreme court. The first hearing was on Feb. 20, when the court demanded Ms. Farhat's reappearance on March 26.

Experts familiar with the case say that it is most likely that the appeal will be accepted and the sentence could be reduced particularly that the high court had judged that the defendant had killed the two men believing that "he was carrying out a patriotic act."

Arah and international lawyers have ridiculed the Kuwaiti system of justice for the dismissal of rape charges against Mr. Omairi on grounds that there was no supportive evidence and the only testimony to support the charge was that of the victim herself.

"Kuwaiti justice tells that a virgin Muslim Arah is willing to stand before a court of law, take the oath of the Koran, and falsely announce that she was dishonoured," said the London-based Arah lawyers' network.

"Kuwaiti justice seems to be still living the legendary capabilities of its heroic patriot Nairah Al Sabah who made fools of American congressmen," said the statement. It was referring to the daughter of the then Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington, Saud Nasser Al Sabah, who appeared before the U.S.

Congress and said under oath that she was a Kuwaiti nurse who witnessed Iraqi soldiers stealing incubators and killing Kuwaiti infants during the occupation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Farhat dismissed as sheer fabrication and lie an assertion by Sheikh Saud, who is now Kuwait's information minister, that he had approached by the Farhat family with a proposition that they were ready to shelve the whole affair for a settlement of \$2 million.

"This statement is a fabrication," said Mr. Farhat. "It is a lie."

Despite the court verdict, the Farhats are pressing their demand for justice.

"Full justice: All guilty parties to the crimes against the Farhat family be tried, convicted and sentenced to the fullest extent of the law."

"Appropriate reparations consistent with international judgements in crime against humanity cases."

— Removal, transport and reburial in Lebanon of the remains of Ismail Farhat and Osama Farhat at Kuwaiti government cost.

— "A formal written public apology from the Kuwaiti government to the Farhat family."

— "An end to human rights crimes in Kuwait and compensation made to all past victims of Kuwaiti government crimes."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde Sous Marin
18:30 Magazine Local
19:15 News in French
19:45 The Weekly Sport Magazine
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 The Torkchons
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature Film
22:50 Sorry

PRAYER TIMES

04:19 Fajr
05:36 Sunrise
11:43 Dhuhr
15:10 Asr
17:50 Maghrib
19:07 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 811740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634591

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 638511, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625328

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624326

German-speaking Evangelical Church Tel. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675091

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Sunny and warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures rising above average and winds becoming northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and was calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 9 / 20

Aqaba 14 / 26

Dead Sea 7 / 21

Jordan Valley 13 / 25

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 28 Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Nidal Dabbeh 627195

Dr. Basim Karubeh 792101

Dr. Yahya Abdul Salam 736772

Dr. Yusuf Al Faqih 750988

Fino pharmacy 661012

Al Asma pharmacy 778336

Naioukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 626730

Yaouub pharmacy 649445

Shmiciam pharmacy 637661

Naimah pharmacy 63672

Najih pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:

Dr. Ali Omari 27302

Alqubah pharmacy 1-1

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Faqih 981301

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661

Outgoing WHO representative praises NHF development work

AMMAN (J.T.) — World Health Organisation (WHO) representative in Jordan Abdul Majed Abdul Hadi Sunday praised the success of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in its efforts to bring about comprehensive and sustainable development in Jordan, according to an NHF statement Sunday.

"Noor Al Hussein Foundation is playing the exact role needed to bring about social and economic development and...its experiment in (this field) is a source of pride for us all," Dr. Abdul Hadi said during a farewell visit he made to NHF on the occasion of the end of his term of duty in Jordan.

Dr. Abdul Hadi praised the success of the project he achieved in improving the overall quality of life of underprivileged rural and urban communities in the country, WHO recently recognised Jordan as a regional training centre in integrated development for the Mediterranean area, the statement said.

Dr. Abdul Hadi praised the Quality of Life Project as an example of the results that hard work and perseverance can achieve.

In appreciation of the success of the project he achieved in improving the overall quality of life of underprivileged rural and urban communities in the country, WHO recently recognised Jordan as a regional training centre in integrated development for the Mediterranean area, the statement said.

Dr. Abdul Hadi praised the Quality of Life Project as an example of the results that hard work and perseverance can achieve.

U.S. senators' spouses start tour of QAF project

AMMAN (J.T.) — At the invitation of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, a delegation of wives of U.S. senators Sunday started an official one-week visit to Jordan, according to a statement by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

During the visit, the delegation will be introduced to Jordanian life and its main economic and social development issues, said the statement.

The delegates, according to QAF, have a specific interest in learning about the concerns of Jordanian women in various sectors of society and aim to explore with them possibilities of increased interaction and cooperation between American and Jordanian individuals and institutions.

The delegation's itinerary includes visits to several projects established by QAF in needy urban areas across the country. In line with the interests of the delegation, a focus of these visits will be on QAF's educational and income-generating projects for women which include rug-weaving, food processing, rural markets and revival of ancient pottery.

According to QAF, part of the fund's social and economic development strategy is to help people help themselves by becoming more economically independent and to encourage women to become more active in their communities.

During the visit, the delegation will meet with women, children and local groups who are benefiting from QAF projects through more than 40 community development centres. The group will also visit some Jordanian historic sites.

The delegates will attend and participate in a portion of the meeting of the permanent representatives of the General Union of Arab Women which is being conducted in Amman from March 22 until March 23, under the patronage of Princess Basma.

Kingdom's water-related experiments to be presented at Hague meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in an international conference on water and sanitation at the Hague and present the Kingdom's water-related experiments and problems to the meeting, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Alkaleh.

Speaking before his departure at the head of a Jordanian delegation to the March 22-23 conference in Holland, Mr. Alkaleh said he would outline the numerous impediments to socio-economic development stemming from insufficient water resources, and the country's efforts to combat environmental pollution.

At the meeting, the Jordanian team will also put forth a draft national plan that would help the Kingdom implement resolutions and recommendations passed by the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which urged nations to take appropriate measures to improve the quality of drinking water and their sanitation services, said the minister.

He said that the Hague meeting's recommendations would be submitted to a special United Nations-sponsored follow-up committee created by the Earth Summit for "enhancement and further action."

Mr. Alkaleh said the conference will also discuss enhancing international cooperation in water resources and the exchange of expertise, adding that special attention will be given to cooperation in safe methods of waste disposal.

Coinciding with the departure of the delegation, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs announced it was preparing public awareness programmes on the need to economise on water consumption.

Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani said the ministry was also studying the quality of drinking water and will present the results to the public with the assistance of the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCPEP) and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Appealing to Jordanian citizens to conserve water and protect water resources, he announced that on World Water Day (Tuesday), the ministry would air special programmes on radio and television focusing on water conservation methods in domestic, agricultural and industrial uses.

Italian textile experts see high potential for contribution to Jordanian production

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a growing economy like Jordan's, the textile industry is one of the key areas with a high potential for contribution to increased domestic production as well as exports, according to Italian experts.

Furthermore, Jordan also holds out promises of being a bridge to other regional markets, they said, adding that this was one of the major considerations behind Italy's interest in increasing general economic cooperation with the Kingdom.

Speaking to the Jordan Times on the fringes of a one-day seminar on Italian technology in the textile industry, Fiorella Corazzini, director of the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade, said Italy wanted to build economic ties with Jordan on a reciprocal basis.

"Unless you develop your partners' ability to produce and export to yourself and others, the relationship will not be balanced," said Ms. Corazzini, noting that Jordanian-Italian trade was heavily in favour of the latter.

Furthermore, the progress in the Middle East peace process has given an added importance to Jordan in the context of regional trade since it could serve as a bridge to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, she said.

Giovanni Rusconi, a senior official of the Italian Association of Textile Machinery Producers (Associazione Costruttori Italiani di Macchinario Per l'Industria Tessile — ACIMIT), said there was a growing interest in the Jordanian private sector to develop the Kingdom's textile industry, an area which could offer not only high-technology contribution to the gross domestic product but also employment chances and utilisation of local resources.

Italy is the fourth largest trade partner with Jordan, after Iraq, the United States and Germany, but is the first-ranking exporter of textile machinery to the Kingdom.

Jordan's import of Italian textile machinery, mostly in the area of spinning and finishing, rose from \$1 million in 1992 to \$4 million in 1993.

Dr. Rusconi said that during Sunday's seminar, he received a surprisingly high number of inquiries related to the knitting side of the industry. "This is another sign of the growing interest of Jordan in the industry," he said.

Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, in an address to the seminar, emphasised the warmth in overall Jordanian-Italian relations as one of the most encouraging factors for both sides to increase cooperation.

The geographic proximity between Jordan and Italy should be complemented with close economic relationships in terms of trade and joint industrial ventures, she said.

Ms. Khalaf said Jordan attached high importance to the industrial sector and that the seminar was one of the forums which could provide excellent opportunities for Jordanians to familiarise themselves with advances in the industry and explore possibilities of ventures in the field as well as expansion.

Khalidoun Abu Hassan, chairman of the Chamber of Industry, also referred to Jordanian-Italian relations in industry and noted that there were several joint ventures now operating in Jordan. He expressed hope that more of the same would be developed in Jordan, particularly through for-profit Sunday's seminar, which brought in more than 100 Jordanian participants.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini told the gathering that the Italian mission here was encouraged to organise the seminar in view of the growing Jordanian imports of Italian textile machinery.

He said Italy was among the leading European exporters of textile machinery and that ACIMIT represents 240 Italian firms, representing 90 to 95 per cent of all Italian textile machinery exporters.

Three Italian experts addressed the seminar and offered an insight into Italian expertise in the three distinct areas of the textile industry — spinning, weaving and finishing.

The Kingdom's imports of textile-related products (yarn, fibres, fabrics as well as ready-made garments) totalled nearly JD 120 million in 1992, while its exports in the same category totalled JD 25 million. Figures for 1993 were not immediately available.

Jordan produced 1,037 million metres of textiles and spun 1.51 tonnes of yarn during 1992. No figures were available on ready-made garment production.

Clothes and textiles are given a 1.6 per cent share in Jordan's industrial production index. The index, set on 100 and based on 1979 production, rose from 118.9 points to 128.5 points in 1993 — a nine per cent growth.

Jordan is exempt from the textile export quotas that many Western countries have set. As such, other countries with high production capacities but with limited export quotas could take advantage of the Kingdom's status to expand their exports.

But the full potential that the Kingdom offers to textile and ready-made garment producers and exporters has not been fully exploited, businesspersons say.

Crime prevention workshop focuses on developing world

By Rana Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A regional preparatory meeting in advance of the 1995 Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders Sunday opened with discussions on "ways to pay special attention to new modalities and initiatives to strengthen technical cooperation, including ways and means of increasing support for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the United Nations regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, particularly those located in the developing world."

The meeting, which is jointly organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Jordanian Ministry of Interior and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch at the U.N. office in Vienna (UNOV), is expected to discuss topics including promoting the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme; the improvement of law enforcement agencies, prosecution systems, courts and correctional administrations; strategies for preventing urban crime, including juvenile crime and violence; and victims' concerns.

Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad addressed the attending representatives and experts from different parts of the world, saying this meeting was very important to the region because it represented the view of countries situated in a strategic part of the world, and the meetings' outcome will have a great impact on the activities of crime prevention authorities in the international community.

Mr. Hamad gave a brief outline of Jordan's achievements in the area of crime prevention, focusing on the role of human rights.

"We live in the state of institutions and the rule of law," he said. "We have a modern penal institution and we have leading experience in this regard in the region. Prisons have become rehabilitation centres with the necessary elements to guarantee all the rights of those who live in them."

"These centres comprise handicraft workshops offering the resident a chance to learn any job he chooses while being paid, which will help him live in dignity after the completion of his sentence," Mr. Hamad added.

Kurk Neudek, deputy chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch at UNOV, praised the West Asian region for its comparatively low incidence of crime.

"Within the framework of Islamic principles, placing emphasis on community mediation and conflict resolution for social problems, and imbuing and transmitting its ethics and values to its young, Islamic society safeguards itself from crime and its resultant adversities," Mr. Neudek said.

He pointed out that at this meeting, the final in a series of five regional meetings, in preparation for the ninth United Nations Congress.

"It is time for Western Asia...to consolidate its regional position, to stipulate its needs, priorities and concerns in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and to identify possible courses of action within the context of its unique perspective."

The first day discussions included tackling topics regarding international cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law, promoting the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, mass media and crime prevention, and exchanging views and suggesting new ideas.

Some of the participants suggested considering other important issues to be presented in the 1995 conference.

Major General Mohammad Bshoul, assistant general director of the Public Security Department who was elected chairman of the five-day workshop, stressed the importance of all sectors to work together, adding that the responsibility should not only fall on the authorities, and that all sectors should unite to fight crimes.

He said the best way to accomplish these goals is for advanced countries to help developing countries by furnishing them with the latest in training programmes.

Asma Khader, president of the Jordanian Women's Union said the responsibility falls not only on the legislative authority in one country, but also on various organisations in terms of prevention and protecting its individuals from organised crimes.

Ms. Khader added that women and children are the victims of their own society, especially the ones that reside in poor sections.

"The poorer the children and women were, the better are the chances that they will be abused by their surrounding society," she said.

Ms. Khader, a lawyer, said the only way to protect this group of people is by establishing awareness programmes and educating them.

Among the issues discussed were the importance of balancing crime prevention with respect for human rights, women and children as victims of crime, the need to address the cause that lead to criminal behaviour in addition to the symptoms, the role of criminal law in protecting the environment, and the necessity of improving international cooperation to prevent organised crime of an economic and non-political nature, rather than focusing solely on politically-oriented organised crime.

Today (Monday), the workshop will resume its discussion on topics including action against national and transnational economic and organised crime, and the role of criminal law in protecting the environment, national experiences and international cooperation, extradition and international cooperation and environmental protection at national and international levels.

During the opening session, participants also elected as vice-chairman of the meeting Saudi Arabia's Abdulrahman Al Ghamdi, the assistant director of the Arab Centre for Security and Training Research; and as rapporteur Egypt's Wahid Jallal, the consul at the Egyptian Embassy in Amman.

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Man arrested for robbery impersonating an officer

By Rana Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Baqaa police Saturday detained a 27-year-old man for allegedly impersonating a police officer and robbing two men in the Ain Al Basha area of Baqaa, a Public Security Department (PSD) statement said.

The robbery victims told police that a man claiming to be a police officer but dressed in civilian clothing arrived at their home Saturday and demanded to search them.

According to one of the victims, the robber escaped with JD60.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the description of the robber led them to a government employee, who was positively identified by the victims in a police line-up.

A PSD official urged the public to take extra precautions if they are approached by persons claiming to be police officials demanding to search them or their homes.

"It is the right of all citizens to ask any official, with or without a uniform, to present identification," the official said.

Saturday's incident was the latest such occurrence since January, when a group of people, in different parts of the Kingdom, posed as military officials and robbed several individuals.

"The man we have arrested is not linked to the earlier fraud cases that were reported to us," the official said.

"The previous cases were conducted in a different style and manner, and most of the time at least one of the impersonators wore a military uniform," the PSD official said.

AL-ISRA UNIVERSITY

The Department of Continuing Education and Community Development Of AL - ISRA University announces The holding of the following training programmes in :-

Arab and Islamic Culture (In English).
From 9th April - 18th May 1994, for 24 hours, Mon., and Wed., 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fees JD 60.

Teaching Arabic to non-native speakers.
From 26 Mar. - 15th June 1994, for 48 hours, four hours per week, Mon., and Wed., 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fees JD 100

Teaching German Language.
From 16th April - 17 May 1994, for 28 hours, six hours, per week, Sat., Mon., and Wed., 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fees JD 40

Those interested may register at the department in the University HQs
For more information please call

08/41710 - 08/41830 - 08/41581
Ext. : 206 - 210 Fax : 08/41505

Jordan's newest and largest art gallery to open with display of 80 artists' works

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Princess Wijdan Ali is inaugurating a new art gallery that opens in the capital Tuesday, and where 80 artists (40 Jordanians and 40 Iraqis) will have their works on display.

The gallery, owned by Shamil Kubba, an architect, archaeologist and artist himself, is the largest in the Kingdom, covering 350 square metres in Wadi Sagra.

What prompted Dr. Kubba

to open yet another gallery in Amman is that "Jordan is becoming a major cultural centre in the Arab World." This, and the fact that the gallery is a privately-owned establishment, thus "filling an important gap in the cultural world of the capital," seemed to be reason enough for the Iraqi-born Maccenas to establish his gallery.

The aim is "to encourage and help local artists and expose them to the outside."

Dr. Kubba also hopes to be

able to organise exhibitions abroad and help the artists by "organising things for them through communicating with other galleries."

The Ain Gallery, as it is called, has a counterpart in Ain Baghdad, in the Iraqi capital, where Dr. Kubba is also the proprietor.

The intention is to make the Ain Gallery "one of the top three galleries in the Kingdom, on par with Abdul Hameed Shoman's Darat Al Funun and the National Art

Gallery."

It will have a permanent section where the "average working individual can afford purchasing the art works."

This, Dr. Kubba hopes, will be done by "trying to keep high quality art at down-to-earth prices," a thing that will also "allow people to increase their aesthetic awareness."

The works to be chosen for display will be selected by a "consultancy board which would meet to discuss the

standard of applications of the artists who want to exhibit." The board will be made up of "top local and Arab" artists invited for that purpose.

Among those exhibiting at the inauguration are well-known names like Aziz Amoura, Khalid Khreis, Ahmad Nawash, Rafiq Lahham, Mohammad Durra, among Jordanians, and Shaker Hassan and Ala' Bashir.

The exhibition will continue until April 22.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
 مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية
 جوردن تايمز جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
 Jordan Times advertising department.

Whitewater impact on the 1994 elections

WASHINGTON WATCH

By Dr. James Zogby

With the Whitewater controversy still growing in scope, U.S. President Bill Clinton's 1994 legislative and electoral agenda appears to be facing serious problems.

Initially, Whitewater was about nothing more than a failed Arkansas land deal in which the Clintons were investors. As I noted in a recent column, Whitewater was initially a complicated affair, involving a possible conflict of interest and a question of unpaid taxes. But with the way White House staffers have (mis)handled the issue, it has grown to include questions of White House meddling in a federal investigation and charges that there is an attempted "cover-up" of Clinton's wrong-doings.

With the Senate voting this week to hold hearings on Whitewater and with a procession of top Mr. Clinton aides being called before a grand jury, the Clinton administration is seeing the minor Arkansas affair grow into a major national scandal that threatens the ability of the president to frame the national debate — which is especially dangerous in this congressional election year.

In this context, the first victim of Whitewater appears to be the bipartisan spirit that was beginning to emerge at the end of 1993. It was strong Republican support that produced the majority of votes for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the president's anti-crime bill. These victories gave Mr. Clinton a boost in the public opinion polls, which he hoped would carry him to victory in the two major legislative battles of 1994: health care and welfare reform.

But bipartisan spirit Congress enjoyed in 1993 has disappeared in early 1994, because the November elections offer the Republicans an opportunity to win Senate and congressional seats away from the Democrats and enhance their hand in the government. The Republicans have seized on Whitewater as an issue they can use to challenge the president, they have issued daily calls for congressional hearings and accused the White House of impropriety. In many ways, this Republican challenge is similar to what the Democrat-



controlled legislators did to the Reagan and Bush administrations.

The Democrats are under pressure and have responded to the Republicans with attacks of their own. Last weekend at the meeting of the Democratic National Committee, Democratic leaders charged that Republicans were pressing Whitewater for partisan political reasons in an effort to weaken the president. The Democrats further called into question the ethics of each of the Republican leaders who are attacking the president.

The acrimony that all this has produced seriously threatens the ability of the White House to move its legislative agenda forward. In this charged atmosphere it is unlikely that the president can create the bipartisan coalition he needs to pass his programs.

Given that 1994 is an election year and that partisan tensions were bound to erupt, it was necessary for the president to move his agenda early in the year. Each week lost to Whitewater moves the country that much closer to the November elections and makes it less likely the Republicans

will support a Democratic initiative; or that the president will be able to create the public support and momentum necessary to convince conservative Democrats to make the hard decisions to vote for his very complex health care bill and pass his very tough welfare reform package.

There is a tragedy in all of this former Senator Barry Goldwater, a leading Republican (because he was the party's 1964 presidential nominee and the ideological leader who is credited with laying the ground for Ronald Reagan's election in 1980), this week urged the Republicans to "get off the president's back" and said that "needs of the country are greater than either the Republican or Democratic party."

Even without Whitewater, however, the November elections were going to be hotly contested. A great deal is at stake.

Since the end of World War II, which marks the beginning of the modern era of American politics, the average mid-term election costs the president's party 23 seats in the House of Representatives and three senate seats. This year, however,

there is reason to believe that the Democrats may do even worse than the average, so both parties are working exceptionally hard.

First, the anti-incumbent mood which brought so many new faces to Washington in 1992 is still very strong. And while Ross Perot's star has dimmed, the issues he raised and the anger he stirred against "those folks in Washington" is still quite present. The term limits movement, which calls for laws to limit the number of years a politician could remain in office, is another sign of the anti-incumbent sentiment and is gaining momentum — even Democratic Speaker of the House Tom Foley is involved in a lawsuit against a term limit law passed by his state. Given all this, with 110 new members in 1992 and already 40 retirements announced this year, there is a possibility that half the next congress could be new since Mr. Clinton's election just two years ago — an unprecedented change.

An even bigger factor in the possible change this year is the simple fact that the Democrats have more to lose. Of the 34 senate seats up for reelection this year, the Democrats must

defend 21 of them. Political analysts have identified seven seats which seem to be in particular jeopardy, and six of them belong to Democrats. Of course, March is a long way from November, but there is a strong possibility that the Republicans stand to gain three seats in the senate when the new class is sworn in 1995.

In the House of Representatives, many Democrats are sitting in a very precarious position, having survived in 1992 largely because former U.S. President George Bush performed so poorly at the top of the Republican ticket. The redistricting process of 1990 had been expected to bring 30-40 new Republicans to the House of Representatives.

If the Republicans do score major gains this November, they could make the remaining two years of Mr. Clinton's term very difficult. As it is now, the president cannot bring in all the Democrats to vote for his proposals, but things could be considerably worse. Specifically, although even a five-seat gain in the senate would leave the Republicans in a 49-51 minority, but Senator Richard Shelby, a Democrat from Alabama,

votes with the Republicans far more often than he votes with the Democrats — and he is seldom alone. In House the loss of any seats threatens the ability of the Democrats to move legislation, because the Democrats' large (257-176 majority) is in fact much smaller because the left and right wings of the party are so far apart that they seldom vote together.

But though past and recent history paint a gloomy picture for the Democrats, there are some encouraging signs. The polls are now showing a surprising swing to the Democratic Party. This move is predominantly because most of the pressing issues on the public's agenda now are issues on which Democrats have traditionally scored well: health care, education, job creation and creating political change. A majority of the public even has more confidence that the Democrats will handle welfare reform better than the Republicans — which is a significant shift from just a few years ago. The only two issues (out of 12) on which the Republicans score better than the Democrats are foreign affairs and foreign trade, which are not very important to voters right now. Only on the question of taxes do the Republicans score better than the Democrats on an important issue.

Democrats might even be able to capitalise on the anti-incumbent sentiment because they are the party most identified with "change" — the issue that was the battery of Ross Perot and his legion of voters in 1992. Also in Democrats' favour is the fact that the economy is in good shape and voters tend to give the president and his party credit for a good economy. Further, Mr. Clinton's chief spokesman — has been hitting the key issues of the day (the deficit, health care, crime and welfare reform) in a very visible way for the past two years.

It is only March and the November elections are eight months away, but already there are a series of fascinating political stories developing across the U.S. Winter isn't over yet, but it's already getting hot.

The writer is President of the Washington-based Arab-American Institute.

Bureaucracy not for education

THE MOVE by the government to replace the Ministry of Higher Education with a Council for Higher Education is a welcome development. But replacing one bureaucratic body with another is in itself not enough. The government, on the other hand, says it will "amend" the legislation pertaining to higher education, which can only make sense. But judging by past experiences we fear the new legislation might not be more progressive than the old one, leaving us with a greater problem at hand.

We do appreciate the government's concern to protect and maintain the standard of education and the quality of university graduates, but our own experiences have taught us that government intervention, whether in the economy, agriculture, the services, trade or other fields, can be counter productive and often is. At a time when higher education in particular needs to be liberalised, rather than controlled, the bureaucracy can do more harm than good if it is allowed a free rein.

Prospects of low quality output of graduates need not worry the concerned people. The market is capable of taking care of this. Employers are always capable of recruiting the best graduates. Good and poor institutions soon establish their reputation as such. Universities especially should be allowed to decide on their own criteria for admission, their own fees for enrollment and their own curricula for teaching. Regulating these aspects of higher education leads to limitations that hinder the process of learning and scientific progress. Furthermore, since the government intends to allow for the establishment of boards of trustees for state-run universities and since private universities have their own boards, there is no need for the establishment of a higher council. What is needed perhaps is a body that would include representatives from boards of various universities and act only as an advisory body.

At this juncture in our history when we strive to liberalise politics and the economy it must be recognised that freeing education from bureaucratic chains is a prerequisite for our development and progress.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AFTER HARD labour, the U.N. Security Council has finally delivered Resolution 904 which, of course, will be added to resolutions 242, 338 and 425 but would not yield any fruit, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Sunday. It is regrettable to see the Arab states involved in the peace process considering the new resolution as a victory for the Arabs and conducive to peace, prompting them to decide to return to the negotiating table with Israel, said Ahmad Al Mideh. There is no doubt that the PLO, which has been adamant in its demand that the Palestinians get protection in the face of further atrocities, would also follow the example of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon and decide to return to the talks, said the writer. Indeed, he said, Yitzhak Rabin has succeeded in circumventing the Hebron massacre and containing Arab wrath and has secured the Arab countries' return to the talks which are achieving nothing for the Arabs and everything for the Israelis. However, he said, neither the resolution nor the Arab countries' decision to return to the talks have succeeded in reducing the level of violence inside the Arab lands occupied by the Israeli forces and Israeli settlers. On the contrary, Israeli repression is increasing in intensity and it is impossible for the Jews and Arabs to co-exist, added the writer. He said that the Arabs seem to have forgotten the massacre and are back in business as normal, dealing with the Israelis and the coming American delegations and turning a blind eye to the continued plights of their kinsmen in Palestine, said the writer.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour criticised the showing of "The Terrorist", a movie which, he said can only encourage acts of terrorism and harm the image of Islam. Jordan has no interest in peddling terrorism and should ban the film in the cinema halls lest it would reflect a distorted image about the Islamic faith, demanded Mohammad Subeih. Describing the film as a cheap production aiming to hurt the feelings of the faithful, the writer said that the scenes depict immoral behaviour as well as terrorist practices which are unjustly attributed to the Muslims. The writer said that such a movie was not produced for the Jordanian society which fights extremism and advocates national unity and pluralism, and therefore it would harm the minds of the young, he pointed out. The writer said that the film producer has obviously failed to see that this film would by no means curb acts of terrorism but on the contrary would prompt religious people to sympathise with these elements conducting acts considered as extreme and outrageous in reaction to repression and injustice.

New hopes, old suspicions in Syrian view of Israel

By G.G. Labelle
 The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — The words echo through almost every conversation with Syrians about Israel and the Middle East peace talks: We want peace. They don't.

"We" may be a young woman studying law in Damascus or a soldier in his mid-30s in a Golan Heights village once destroyed by the Israelis.

"They" are the Israelis, still the enemy but no longer stereotyped as a people who are unanimous in detesting Arabs and lusting for their territory.

Syrians want the advantages peace could bring. Businessmen are looking for tourism and foreign investment. Ordinary people don't want their sons to go to war and hope the 60 per cent of the budget now poured into the military can go to badly needed schools, housing and hospitals. The during ones dream that the small economic reforms adopted to encourage investment will grow into real freedom.

That dream of peace took a step forward when Syria, Jordan and Lebanon on Friday agreed to resume talks with Israel in April. The announcement came after the U.N. Security Council voted to condemn the massacre of Palestinians last month in a Hebron mosque.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad holds the key to a comprehensive Middle East settlement. Lebanon and Jordan would not move without Syria and most Palestinian groups that oppose any peace with Israel are based in Damascus.

But Mr. Assad, 63, is not always moved by appeals from abroad of public opinion at home. He has kept some opponents in jail for decades, and it was Western charges of repression and terrorism that led to Syria's political isolation.

His government, however, does share some of the goals that underlie the yearning for peace, particularly the hope of healing a sick economy

and finding a way into the modern world of technology and trade.

"The global village is really very close: You can touch it, and we have to be in it," said Mohammad Al Imady, Syria's U.S.-educated economy minister.

Much has changed since Syria sided with the U.S.-led coalition over three years ago in the Gulf war against Iraq and agreed a year later to talk peace with Israel.

At least \$2 billion worth of grants and loans have flowed in from wealthy Arab states of Arab Gulf and \$360 million in similar aid is coming from the European Union. More Western goods and tourists are arriving. Stationery stores that used to sell little more than cheap pens now display windows, the

computer programme.

Still, however great the desire for peace, fears and suspicions remain.

Some Syrians worry that Israel merely wants to trade real war for economic war as a way to dominate the Arabs. Others, watching the chaos of Islamic extremism in Egypt and Algeria, fear more freedom would upset the "stability" created during 23 years of Mr. Assad's rule.

Mostly, Syrians fear Israel is not serious about peace, that negotiations with the Palestinians are just a ruse to end the uprising in the occupied territories and get the West off its back about human rights.

As evidence of this, Ali, a 36-year-old soldier, cited the killing of at least 30 Muslim worshippers in a Hebron mosque by a Jewish settler.

Again and again, Syrians spoke of the pain they felt as Arabs and as Muslims, after the massacre Feb. 25. "Who armed the settlers?" they asked. Government-controlled newspapers reverted to old practice of substituting "Zionist terrorists" for "Israelis."

Many Syrians brought up old wounds to the Arabs: the massacres of Palestinians by Israelis in the village of Deir Yassin near Jerusalem in 1948 and in the refugee camps of Beirut in 1982 by Lebanese forces allied with Israel.

All told of personal experience: He is from the Golan village of Hamidiyah, which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, then destroyed. Ali's family lived in a camp

until Syria regained part of the Golan Heights in a disengagement agreement after the 1973 war.

The soldier, who has five children, said he hoped peace was near, but asked: "What's happening with the Israeli atomic weapons when we talk peace? Still they are piling up these weapons."

He spoke to a journalist in one of the tiny concrete homes of the New Hamidiyah. The old village is over the next hill, the basalt stone walls of its houses blown down by Israeli dynamite charges.

Hamidiyah almost touches the U.N. zone separating Syria from the Israeli-occupied Golan, and Damascus is but 40 miles (65 kms) away.

Minutes out of Damascus en route to the Golan, one gets a first glimpse of Israeli-held territory: snow-capped Mount Hermon, known to Arabs as Jebel Sheikh. Calling attention to the nearness of the mountain, Syrians complain that the world is-

tens to Israel's security fears but not to those of Arabs.

Marlene, a 28-year-old law student who spent three years in Paris, repeated the "us and them" argument. But when asked whether she really thought every Israeli opposed peace, she quickly said she meant Israel's government, which "doesn't want to give us back our land."

Like Ali the soldier, Marlene asked that only her first name be used. Others interviewed withheld even their first names.

Even Syrians critical of Mr. Assad agree with his demand for the return of all Arab land seized by Israel in the 1967 war.

Few of those interviewed accepted Israel's goal of full diplomatic relations, which would mean an Israeli embassy in Damascus.

Suheil Zakkar, a University of Damascus historian, seemed to sum up the Syrian attitude — the aspirations and lingering hatreds during a conversation in his book-lined study.

Syrians long to sing along with modern world

By G.G. Labelle
 The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — Elena Troshina, the singer at the piano bar, tired of songs from her native Russia the other night and switched to one of her favourites. Out came "Summer time, and the Living is Easy..."

Her change from "dark Eyes" to Gershwin was no surprise at a place where American jazz blares as a French fashion show flashes across the video screen. Syrian patrons sing along with everything from "O Sole Mio" to American pop songs.

The new restaurant in the old Christian quarter of Damascus reflects the desire of Syrians to move from the political wilderness into the modern world of videos, computers, international trade and tourism.

In some ways, the government is going along. It allows cafes and, although satellite dishes are forbidden, generally ignores the smuggled ones sprouting on the roofs of the wealthy.

Syria is importing and ex-

porting more. Most of its foreign trade used to be barter with the Soviet bloc — cheap consumer goods for arms — but now men's suits made in Italy are sold in Europe and the United States.

The government has dropped its monopoly on manufacturing tomato paste and one Syrian company even makes that most American of products, peanut butter.

Foreign tourism increased from \$1.4 million in 1990 to \$1.9 million last year, and the government projects \$2.1 million for 1994. About 80 per cent of the visitors are from nearby Arab countries, but more Europeans and Americans are coming.

Optimists hope for a peace agreement with Israel followed by increasing economic and political freedom. The government wants to get off the U.S. list of countries that sponsor terrorism, which would open the way for American investment and the sale of sophisticated technology of Syria.

Some powerful forces oppose economic and political change, however, so the road to modernisation may be tough.

State-owned industry will not give way easily, particularly with unemployment near 30 per cent and more than half of Syria's 13 million people under age 15, creating an even greater need for jobs in the future. The entrenched security apparatus also is not eager to loosen its grip.

A businessman, who asked that his name not be used, said entangled political and financial corruption means new investment will enrich only the powerful.

Still, things do seem to be changing. Japanese and Korean cars are replacing the 1950s and 1960s Buicks and Chevrolets held together by baling wire and kept running because of high import duties on new vehicles. At least 10 hotels are planned for visitors to Syria's Roman ruins, Crusader castles and Islamic monuments.

As "bye, bye, Delilah" pours forth at the piano bar, it is hard to imagine Syria not opening to the world. After all, Damascus was a hub on the ancient trade routes that carried goods — and ideas — between East and West.

LETTERS

Blacklist the 'list'

To the Editor:

I READ with astonishment the letter of Mr. Mark Power Stevens (Jordan Times, March 6) in which he calls for "Schindler's List" to be shown in Jordan.

I would like to remind Mr. Stevens that the film is part of a Jewish campaign throughout the world to make people believe that six million Jews were exterminated during the Nazi regime.

I am sure that he knows that some eminent scholars and historians were harassed in the United States, France, Canada, Germany, Austria and other "free countries" simply because they doubted the existence of the gas-chambers.

I wish an international tribunal could be set up to investigate the case and I am sure it would find that Schindler's List is nothing but fiction.

George Khoury,
 Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

كلنا من الشعب

King: U.N. resolution was mishandled

(Continued from page 1)

protection for the Palestinian people under occupation.

The committee issued a statement voicing pride in and appreciation for King Hussein's courageous stand and his efforts to formulate a united and active Arab position.

The committee expressed satisfaction with the position of the 14 members of the U.N. Security Council who condemned the massacre and called for providing international protection for the Palestinian

people.

The committee members earlier met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and discussed with him the U.N. Security Council resolution on the massacre.

Mr. Hassan reviewed the government's position towards the resolution and explained Jordan's moves and efforts prior to and after passing the resolution. He also reviewed the dimensions of the latest visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the accompanying Jordanian delegation, including His Royal

Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The minister also reviewed the recent visit by the Greek Foreign Minister to Jordan, and the outcome of his talks in Jordan and the agenda of the forthcoming Arab League council meeting, which will be held in Cairo on March 26.

The minister briefed the committee on the government's contacts with senior French officials to reconsider France's latest decision on entry visas for Jordanians wishing to visit France.

House urges priority for agriculture reform

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday called for giving priority to agricultural policies and adopting a constant methodology for successive governments. During a regular House session chaired by Speaker Taher Masri, the lawmakers discussed recommendations of the Agriculture Committee and stressed the need for holding a national conference to agree on a fixed and clear-cut policy.

They also called for establishing a national farmers federation through which farmers can demand their rights and ensure that their requirements are met at the lowest price possible.

The House also called for setting up a national fund for supporting farmers affected by natural disasters and for adopting a cropping system using new methods after undertaking feasibility studies.

The House also listened to answers by the ministers concerned on questions raised by several House members. The questions dealt with the interfaith conference held recently

at the late King Abdullah's Mosque. The minister of Awaqaf said the meeting was held within the framework of Muslim-Christian dialogue. The agriculture minister answered a question about Al Fajj station, which produces milk and other dairy products, in addition to livestock. The minister said the station will be used as a centre for counselling on animal wealth.

Responding to a question why the name of Al Rahadh Castle, the education minister said the move came in accordance with findings of historical resource books and university reports. The health minister, answering a question put to him by Deputy Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, said an amendment to the 1985 public health law did not give the ministry any authority to fix doctors' fees.

Mr. Rawabdeh criticised the ministry's policy and called for enacting legislation fixing doctors' fees, similar to the legislation the ministry enacted to fix prices of medicine.

The right to life and the Hashimeyeh water

By Dr. Waleed Saadi

OF ALL the human rights, including the human right for democracy, the right to life comes ahead. So when Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas threw out at us few weeks ago his bomb shell about the state of food and medicine in the country, most of the people applauded the courage and integrity that was behind the shocking revelation. Not much has been heard lately about what corrective measures have been taken in that vein with the exception of bits and pieces about some measures that were being contemplated to improve control on the food we eat and the drugs we take.

The storm created by Dr. Malhas has since died out for all intents and purposes without any assurances that the problem has been licked. Dr. Malhas owes it to all of us who became agitated at the thought of being fed contaminated or expired foods or treated with false medicines.

The best evidence that the country is not taking seriously the issues raised by Dr. Malhas last month is the discovery that in Al Hashimeyeh district of the Zarka area, contaminated water is still being pumped out of a stream of raw sewage to irrigate farm produce. The smell coming out of this stream is so awful that it is amazing that Dr. Malhas has not even noticed the problem till now. How is it possible that water polluted by raw sewage can still be used in a civilised country as ours to irrigate agricultural products at a time when we seek to address the expiry date of food staples and drugs. When I checked the source and destination of this terrible mess, I was told by local farmers that the water comes from Khirbet Al Samra and flows unimpeded to the Ghor area. Only God knows where this dangerously polluted water ends up, although some suggest that the highly polluted water feeds King Talal Dam. With all fairness this is an old problem that dates back to several years. I was also informed that now and then the authorities destroy the crops watered by this

stream but the farmers go back and cultivate their lands as if unimpeded by state action.

What is the sense then of talking about expired medicines and food when this outrageous problem goes under our own eyes. How many times do we have to sound the alarm about the continued misuse of pesticides and insecticides in Jordanian agriculture, not to mention the heavily contaminated water for irrigation purposes.

Human Rights File

The right to life means the protection of life from such persistent violations of basic health norms. The minister of health has started the disclosures about shortcomings in our society and he is called upon to finish the job. I respectfully call on him to visit the Hashimeyeh area and see for himself how the health of Jordanian is being flouted. Before taking up the cause of medicines and imported food stuffs let us first clean up our domestic food productions from obvious and brazen threats.

There are so many simple violations that are hardly attracting attention. For example, the prepared food stuffs that are being sold to

people by street vendors are not even covered up from flies and dust. Why can't the Ministry of Health do this simple task by outlawing and preventing such dangerously contaminated food or sweets from being sold and bought on the streets in a manner that contradicts the basic norms of hygiene.

And why the Ministry of Health still turns a blind eye to the government's law against smoking in public places. Has the minister of health visited the so-called Palace of Justice for example to see for himself the problem of smoking in public places. One can go on and on remunerating the cases of health hazards in the Kingdom that have yet to attract the eyes and attention of the concerned ministries.

Dr. Malhas has started his campaign in the country. All of us who supported him in his earlier crusade want him to finish the job by first tackling the domestic scene and fighting contaminated water and the abuse of pesticides and insecticides. Above all, we would like him to visit Al Hashimeyeh area and see for himself the extent of the problem caused by raw sewage being used for irrigating agricultural produce.

Arafat, Peres may meet in Paris

(Continued from page 1)

ign as part of the Palestinian uprising against occupation.

The PLO objected to Israeli control of the police, but Mr. Peres said the Palestinian veto of the idea might be overcome by having the police report to a Palestinian-controlled city hall.

The main thrust of Israel's bargaining position was that implementing autonomy, rather than further government moves to coral settlers, was the best route to Palestinian security.

"Change cannot come by this or that step... but by hastening the implementation beyond the declaration of principles, something Israel is prepared to do," said Mr. Savor.

Cabinet ministers said the main thrust of the negotiations in Tunis was the presence of the Palestinian police in Hebron and general security measures.

"There is no doubt that today we are going to discuss two main points which are related to the security of the city of Hebron... the presence of Palestinian police within Hebron and how much we can do to guarantee security of all," Mr. Ben-Eliezer told reporters.

A Palestinian police presence in Hebron under Israeli authority was a proposal approved in principle by the cabinet, Mr. Ben-Eliezer said.

The daily Yedioth Ahronoth reported that Mr. Rahin told Mr. Arafat he was willing to accept temporary deployment in Hebron of unarmed international observers, such as the Red Cross.

Palestinians have said such a proposal would not be satisfactory, it also wants Israel to dismantle the six Jewish enclaves in Hebron, housing 450 settlers among 10,000 Arabs.

Hebron residents were sceptical of the varied offers, starting with the U.N. resolution.

"What kind of resolution is that? They will send us unarmed international police to protect us from armed settlers?" said Hebron resident Jamil Abu Suafan, 65.

PLO chief negotiator Nahil Shaath said on Sunday the Hebron massacre had created new priorities for the agenda of talks for implementing the accord.

"The Tunis talks will be about the measures to be taken by the Israeli government ab-

out the (Jewish) settlers' status in the occupied Palestinian land, especially Hebron, to provide security for Palestinian people," Dr. Shaath told reporters in Cairo before heading for the Tunis meeting.

"This will include disarming settlers, the behaviour of the Israeli army, getting extremist settlers out of the Hebron area, agreeing on the form of international protection to be provided in Hebron and the deployment of the Palestinian

police in the West Bank and Gaza according to the declaration of principles," he said.

"Any Israeli talk of the Palestinian police being under the authority of the Israeli police is nonsense and a violation of the declaration of principles," Dr. Shaath said.

"Any Palestinian police in Hebron or anywhere else must be separate from the Israeli police and directly under the supervision of the Palestinian National Authority," he said.

Norwegian-mediated plan could be key

(Continued from page 1)

crucial United Nations Security Council resolution calling for international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"This remains on paper, we need to see practical steps taken," PLO executive committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said Saturday.

The Norwegian proposal by Deputy Foreign Minister Terry Larsen, who has been in Tunis for 10 days, includes these steps:

— Joint Israeli and Palestinian police units take control of security in Hebron. The patrols should be under international command.

— Israel, unilaterally and without prior announcement, begins evacuating some 450 settlers living in the centre of Hebron.

— Israel takes measures to restrict the movement of armed Israeli settlers in Arab-populated areas.

— Israel starts troop with-

drawal a week after the resumption of negotiations, prior to the signing of a detailed self-rule plan for Palestinians.

The Norwegian proposals are an attempt to find a middle ground between a Palestinian plan that was presented to Israel and the U.S. last week, and the Israeli response to that plan.

The original paper, as PLO officials describe it, consisted of three major points:

— A ban on armed Israeli settlers from going into Arab towns and populated areas.

— The immediate evacuation of settlers from the centre of Hebron.

— A combination of a United Nations (civilian or military) presence and Palestinian police force in Hebron.

Palestinian officials say that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini had discussed the Norwegian initiative as well as modifications introduced by both Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rahin. The

officials say that Israel has not rejected the Norwegian ideas, but that Mr. Peres seems to have a different idea on how to implement them.

In public statements, Mr. Peres said that the Palestinian police force will have more authority than the one that previously operated under Israeli jurisdiction; its members collectively resigned after the intifada began in 1987.

In Tunis, Palestinian reluctance to resume the talks has been further reinforced by a lack of practical steps taken to defuse the tension in Hebron and the U.S. abstention on two clauses of the U.N. Security Council resolution passed last Friday.

The PLO leadership fears that the U.S. vote signalled a serious departure from declared U.S. policies, which have always regarded the West Bank and Gaza Strip as occupied territories and have never recognised the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem. The U.S. position seems to

be drawing closer to that of Israel, which refuses to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention. The convention stipulates that occupying powers secure protection for people under their occupation and ban any changes in the national identity of the occupied land.

The Israeli official argument has been that the Geneva Convention is inapplicable to the West Bank and Gaza since these are "disputed" rather than "occupied territories."

"If the U.S. and Israel want to impose this interpretation as the basis for the negotiations, this will prejudice the final outcome of the negotiations," said a senior PLO official.

Mr. Arafat was expected to ask for clarifications on the American position from the State Department special coordinator on the Middle East peace process, Dennis Ross, who was expected to attend the Israeli-Palestinian meetings.

U.S. sends Ross to Tunis

(Continued from page 1)

criticised the U.N. resolution for not spelling out what was needed to protect the Palestinians.

In Syria, four Palestinian groups — members of a Damascus-based alliance of 10 hardline Palestinian factions resolved to destroy the peace process — said the resolution was "insufficient" to protect the Palestinians and accused the United States of siding with Israel.


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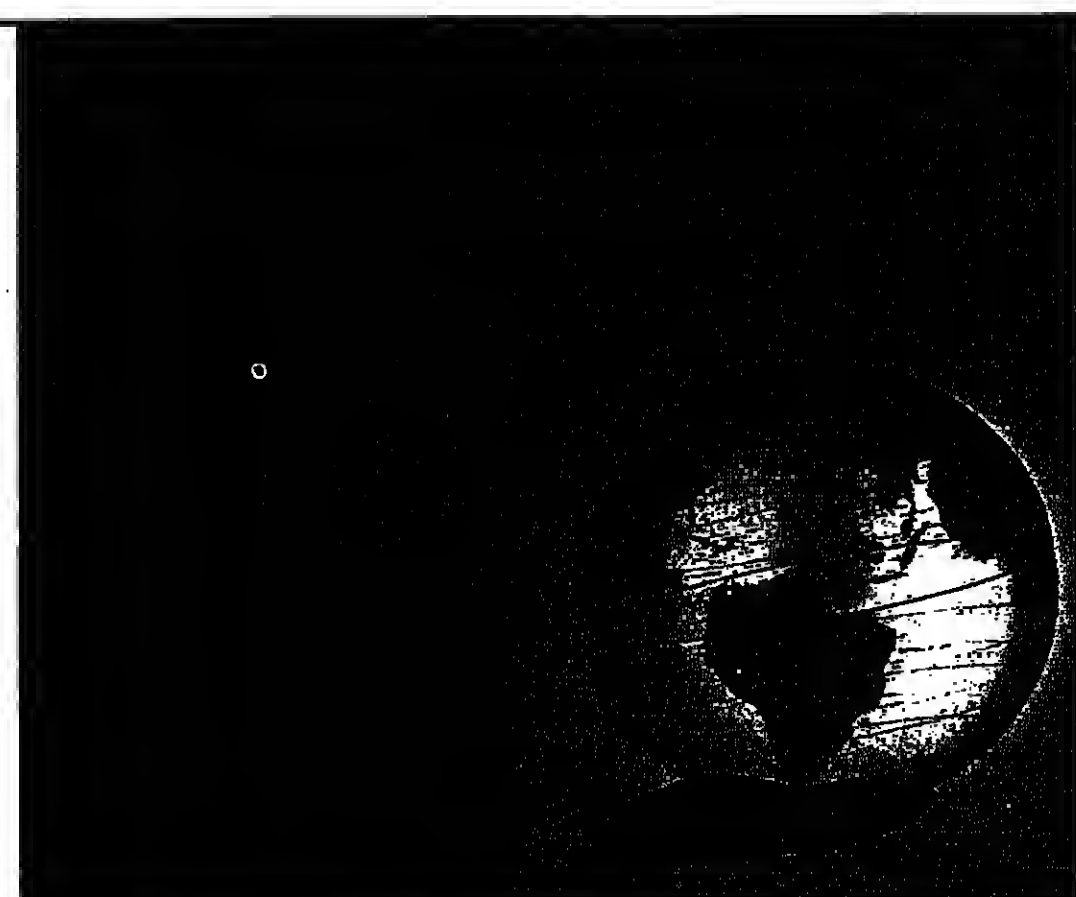
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Japan defends other Asian nations on financial moves

APEC ministers seek \$1 trillion to fund growth

HONOLULU (R) — Pacific rim finance ministers launched a concerted campaign Saturday to raise the \$1 trillion in financing they'll need in the coming decade to ensure the region's continued economic success.

In a three-page statement issued after their first ever meeting, the 18 finance ministers called on business leaders and international financial institutions to work with them to find the money that's needed for everything from roads to telecommunications networks.

"We want a concerted effort," U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen told reporters after two days of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum talks. "We're talking about \$1 trillion in infrastructure projects over the next decade."

Mr. Bentsen glossed over disputes between the United States, Japan and China that threaten to undermine the region's stability, saying he was optimistic they could be solved without saying how that would be done.

Washington and Tokyo are deadlocked over how to reduce Japan's huge \$130-billion annual trade surplus, while the United States and China are at loggerheads over America's demands that Beijing correct alleged human rights abuses and improve its treatment of its own citizens.

APEC member countries have enjoyed phenomenal economic success in recent years and are among the fastest growing nations in the world, but the rapid growth has strained the capacity of many to cope, resulting in polluted

cities, clogged streets and jammed telephone lines.

The ministers acknowledged that they face a "formidable challenge" in raising the finance that's needed as even the large pools of savings that many of their nations enjoy won't be enough to do the trick.

"Large and growing inflows from external sources ... will continue to be crucial," the ministers said in their statement.

To help tackle the problem, the APEC ministers commissioned the International Monetary Fund to prepare a study of cross-border capital flows throughout the region and called on the Asian Development Bank to host a symposium to study the financing issue.

They also encouraged their banking and securities market regulators to step up their contacts and urged regional business leaders to get together to discuss the problem and strengthen their ties, perhaps through some sort of permanent structure.

The gathering of APEC finance ministers was born out of a summit of Pacific rim leaders hosted by President Clinton last year and represents another step in the U.S. drive to tap into the world's fastest-growing economies and expand business with them.

Eighteen finance ministers were at the talks, representing Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore,

Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

Mr. Bentsen said they all agreed on the importance of privatisation, deregulation, trade liberalisation and closer economic ties for the continued economic success of the region.

To help achieve that end, the APEC ministers spelled out five principles to guide their economic policies in the future.

Those principles are: Pursuit of sound budgetary and interest rate policies to keep inflation down, promotion of increased trade and investment links, continued reliance on the private sector as the main engine of growth, further development of capital markets and strengthened efforts to attract and make use of outside financing.

The ministers apparently managed for the most part to steer clear of the contentious issue of how quickly to open Asian financial markets to more competition, especially from the United States.

Washington argues that more open markets would improve the chances of Asian nations for raising the finances they'll need in the coming decade to fund economic development.

But for now, the United States seemed content to settle for further study of the issue by APEC, that though could change next year when the finance ministers meet again in Indonesia.

Japan came to defence of its fellow Asian nations Saturday in their battle to resist U.S. calls for a faster opening of

their financial markets to foreign competition.

"Regulation and supervision of the financial markets should be eased gradually in line with the market's development," Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii told reporters following an economic meeting of Pacific rim nations here.

The United States has made no secret of its desire that Asian nations, including Japan, move more quickly to open their financial markets to competition, although it did not particularly press the point at the two-day ministerial meeting that ended Saturday.

"Nobody would disagree that more liberalisation of Asian financial markets is necessary, but that must be carried out at such a pace that would not disrupt the economic stability of the region," said a top official at Japan's ministry of finance (MOF), who declined to be named.

"Japan's post war economic growth was made possible due to regulations and protective measures, such as interest rate controls and concentrated investment in priority industries," he added. "It was only in the 1970s when those regulations became an obstacle to further growth that Japan started to remove them for greater market efficiency."

Asian officials argue that overly rapid liberalisation of their financial markets would undermine their economies and leave their banks and brokers easy prey to tough foreign competition, especially from the United States.

"Many Asian financial markets are in the infant stage. It is

not fair for them to have to compete with adults," said a senior Chinese official, who declined to be named.

"The United States is trying to push very hard to ask developing members of APEC to pry open their financial markets. It's not a matter of right or wrong. It's the matter of how fast and how far," he said.

Reflecting those concerns, finance ministers of the APEC forum ended their meeting with a statement that contained only a vague reference to financial market development.

"We agree that further development of capital markets is needed for effective mobilisation and allocation of private/business capital," the statement said.

The ministers also agreed that deputy finance ministers and their central bank counterparts will meet jointly in late 1994 or early 1995 to conduct research on financial market regulation and supervision.

For its part, Japan promised continued financial assistance to the region. The top MOF official said that would be possible because of Japan's high savings rate — a rate that has been criticised by the United States in the past as being excessive.

Washington wants Japan to save less and spend more so as to reduce its giant trade surplus, but Tokyo argues that such savings are necessary for the country's long-term economic well-being.

"The high rate of domestic savings has been a locomotive behind Japan's growth," the MOF official said.

Africans urged to end state control to spur growth

ARUSHA, Tanzania (R) — Business leaders in the world's poorest continent Sunday urged governments to cast off the shackles of state control and embrace sweeping reforms to spur growth.

"Pluralism and competition, in both the economic and political spheres, hold the key to a free and prosperous future," said Babacar Ndiaye, president of the African Development Bank (ADB).

"Adjustment can be a difficult and painful process and the benefits not immediately apparent, making it politically difficult for governments to stay the course of reforms, but reforms are the only way forward," he told Reuters.

Mr. Ndiaye, founder of the African Business Round Table (ABR), said 35 African states had implemented economic reforms which encouraged private investment, achieved sound macroeconomic management and liberalised their economies in the last decade.

Twenty others held pluralist polls since winds of democratic change began blowing from eastern Europe in 1989, he added.

Mr. Ndiaye said countries fully committed to economic reform such as Mauritius, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and even Mozambique — one of the world's poorest states — had realised impressive rates of growth in the last few years.

The ABR estimates that to achieve an annual rate of real economic growth of four to five per cent, Africa needs some \$60 billion a year in additional resources throughout the 1990s.

The ABR said a full dia-

logue between governments and the private sector was required and authorities should nurture business with consistent and fair rules applied equally to all.

Called for increased intra-African trade and intra-state cooperation among business leaders, saying the continents two per cent of global trade could not be increased if Africans shunned fellow Africans and did business with industrial powers.

ABR Vice Chairman James Onobio said investors chose lower returns in developed states instead of higher and faster returns in Africa because its business environment was unpredictable.

"Compared to Asia, Europe and North America, the business environment in Africa is made plain hostile and precarious by public bureaucrats with ill-conceived measures and regulations or an absence of coherent and pragmatic economic measures and rules," he said at the close of the four-day ABR annual meeting.

He said the discrete but effective band of policy makers was barely noticed in developed economies but the heavy and arbitrary grip of bureaucrats was present everywhere in Africa.

"The tax and tariff structures in many states are overwhelming in proportion and cascade into punitive levies on both small and big businesses, financial and legal systems are outmoded and hinder private sector growth. Change is a must," Mr. Onobio said.

Some 300 business leaders, three presidents, and government delegates attended the meeting at Arusha in northern Tanzania.

Danish oil to last 20 years, gas 45 years

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark, western Europe's third-biggest oil and gas producer, has known oil reserves which can sustain the present level of production for 20 years while gas reserves will last 45 years.

Exploration efforts were at a low in 1993 and no new reserves were found, the Danish Energy Board said in its annual report, but it said the potential for finding new reserves was very good.

Denmark produces far less oil and natural gas than Europe's two leading producers, Norway and Britain.

But the flow of Danish oil which began in 1972 and has increased sharply since the late 1980s is of major importance for the national economy.

The board said it expected Denmark to achieve balance in its energy trade in 1997, meaning that exports of oil and gas would be worth as much as imports of coal.

"The continued high oil and gas production will mean that Denmark's net energy expenditure will fall from 2.5 billion Danish crowns (\$378.5 million) in 1993 to a balance or a small surplus in 1997," the board said.

Less than 10 years ago, net energy imports burdened the Danish balance of payments on current account by an annual 20 billion crowns (\$3.03 billion).

The self-sufficiency in oil and gas has helped the country achieve balance of payments surpluses since 1990 after 25 straight years of deficits. The 1994 surplus is forecast at 23 billion crowns (\$3.48 billion).

Congo raises prices, cuts import tax

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — Congo is raising prices of fuel, electricity, transport and telephone services and cutting import duties from Monday, a government official said.

He said super-grade petrol would retail at the equivalent of 0.69 per litre, up from 0.52 and the price of a litre of diesel would rise to 0.39 per litre from 0.34.

Water, power and telephone charges would be around 20 per cent higher, urban bus fares would go up 50 per cent and taxi tariffs 40 per cent, he added.

The rises, approved by the government Saturday, are parts of an austerity programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in an effort to balance Congo's budget and win support for rescheduling its foreign debt.

They also reflect the higher cost of imported components caused by January's 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc, used by Congo and 12 other central and west African states.

To keep price rises to a minimum import duties, currently ranging from 50 to 100 per cent, would be cut from Monday to a maximum five per cent for essential goods and up to 30 per cent for other items, the spokesman said.

President Pascal Lissouba Friday called for a social truce in the Central African country while his government carries out spending cuts and reforms its largely centralised economy.

Mr. Lissouba said foreign donors had promised aid by June but Congolese would have to tighten their belts until then.

"We must forget during this period any strike or social demands and accept the sacrifices imposed by our heavy debt," he said in an address broadcast on state radio.

Officials said that among economies agreed with an IMF mission which visited Congo at the beginning of March were cuts in the 80,000-strong civil service, privatisation of state-owned businesses and rises in prices of utilities.

China's oil import ban shakes confidence overseas

SINGAPORE (R) — China's temporary ban on spot oil imports has cast a shadow on the booming Asian demand which many foreign oil traders and investors had come to expect and rely on, industry sources said.

The ban, expected to last one to two months, was officially imposed on March 1 to stem mounting imports into what had become the world's most dynamic oil market.

"We're terribly disappointed. What other outlet can we look at?" said a Singapore trader who sells to China. "We're talking about the withdrawal of the biggest (spot) market in Asia."

Customs figures show Chinese crude oil imports soared 433 per cent in January to 480,000 tonnes compared with January 1993. Refined petroleum product imports grew 111 per cent to 660,000 tonnes.

Massive amounts of imported oil flowing into China have both drained precious hard currency reserves and dis-

placed domestic production. The problem was compounded by a rush to fill storage tanks before a new value-added tax was imposed on Jan. 1.

Since Beijing embarked on its free-market reforms, oil companies have flocked to China to secure footholds in what could be the world's biggest energy market.

Most have a long-term view but admit there was cause for concern over arbitrary and confusing policy changes in the country of more than 1.1 billion people.

Some expressed fears Beijing's move would shake the hard-gained confidence of foreign investors.

"What's going to happen to all those joint-venture refineries which need to use imported crude, or companies with agreements to build land tanks?" asked a trader whose company had storage facilities in China.

Well-known names like Royal Dutch/Shell, Total, ELF, Vitol, Total, Louis Dreyfus and state Saudi Aram-

co have existing businesses or had planned joint ventures in China.

Other major oil companies and Middle East oil producers like Kuwait are also trying to crack the market.

The ban caused no immediate change in Asia's product prices as traders had been anticipating the move since rumours began surfacing last month.

"Prices have already been badly affected over the last few weeks and there's no huge change today," a Singapore trader with a Western trading firm said.

But traders with joint ventures or huge trading positions in China feared that any projected ban would almost certainly disrupt current trading patterns in the region.

Oil experts tend to see the ban within the larger context of Beijing's blueprint to see a cautious growth target of nine per cent for 1994 that depended social and economic strains.

Kenya seeks new coffee markets

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya plans to launch an ambitious coffee export drive to win new markets in eastern Europe as part of Africa's effort to regain lost market share in world trade.

"We are eyeing eastern Europe. We are making plans to enter that market very soon," Aggrey Ole Murunga, general manager of the state-run Coffee Board of Kenya, told Reuters.

Mr. Murunga said most countries in eastern Europe had opened up their markets in liberalisation policies.

Before the collapse of communism there in 1991, African coffee exporters needed government-negotiated bilateral agreements to be able to sell to eastern European markets.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 21, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today finds ricocheting planetary positions which presents a mixed bag; rapid expansion of your goals in the a.m. and limitations in the afternoon where you need to remain calm for best results.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Analyse the future well so that you can put your finest talents to work. Be sure to arrive on time for an important appointment with an associate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Concentrate on the future and then make concrete plans to improve it. Take modern treatments to improve your health for the coming week.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try a new approach with friends and reach a better understanding with them. Know what is expected of you by associates on a new project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have to be tactful and clear thinking to patch up a problem of long standing. Take no risks with money at this time or face disaster.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can get along better with associates by adopting a new attitude. Take no chances with one who has harmed you in the past with a project.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study your duties well

and figure out a way to handle them more efficiently. Don't do anything that could anger your mate at this time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Use a different approach in a civil matter and get excellent results. Avoid one who is detrimental to your best interests in the long run.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make tasks the keynote in your activities today and accomplish a great deal. This is not a good day to engage to new interests or problems occur.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be extra patient in the face of any pressures today and you will win out. Strive for greater prestige in any civic matters you are involved in.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be tactful with family members and maintain harmony at home. Take no chances with a well-known troublemaker or there will be problems.

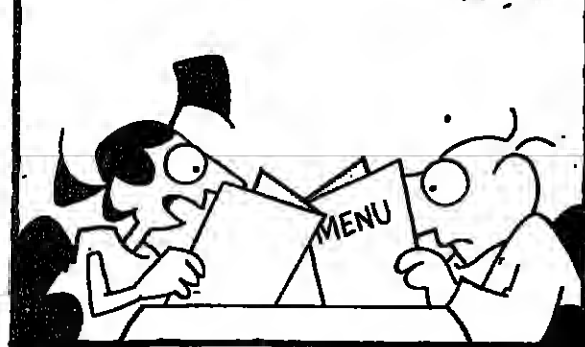
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use good judgment in the handling of problems connected with regular routines. Come to a better understanding with your mate in any situation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your money prowess is better now than for some time so make the most of this now. Obtain data you need from the right sources on any endeavour.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS



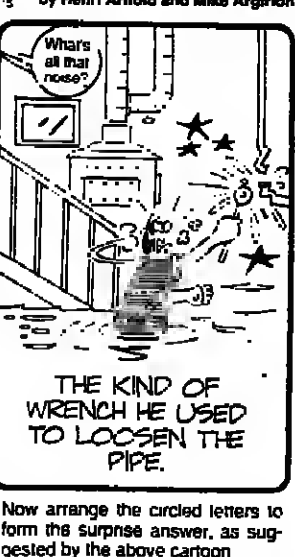
"Are you sure this is a good restaurant? There's a coin-operated stomach pump in the ladies room."

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TROGOT
RELUSY



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Print answer here: "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SCARY ELITE MYRIAD CORNEA
Answer: In one year and out the other — CALENDARS

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray

ACROSS
1 Seat of Irish kings
5 Admission ticket
10 Head
14 Gen. Bradley
15 Speedily
18 Whimsy
17 With 23 across, style of Eric
18 Author Cather
19 A — able
20 Old radio serial
23 See 17 across
24 Draft letters
28 Sock
31 Restrain
34 "Oh, give me —"
36 Mature
37 Crucifix
39 Fisherman's boat
40 Is inherited
44 Put on board
45 TV actress Ward
48 Money
49 Rye or Tatum
50 Friend in need
51 Armed conflict
52 Have being
53 Put or corgi
57 Relative together
64 Henry
66 Talent
67 — of Claves
68 Ancient Greek coin
69 "I cannot — it"
70 Short fall
71 Commemoration
72 Fishhook adon
73 Hedgepodge
DOWN
1 Sir
2 Final word
3 Preliminary, e.g.
4 Saint
5 Slump
8 "Ereos" author
7 Dodge
9 Cartographer's volume
9 Athletic group
10 Gaseous
11 Holy Parkers
12 Inventor
13 Whimsy
13 Inch
21 Circle segment
22 " — ship a sailing"
23 Egg dish
27 Emerald and aquamarine
28 Jean of old movies
29 Lizard
30 Beginning scout
32 Spots
33 Black tea
35 Noah's son
36 Valley
41 Caspian, e.g.
42 Muslim faith
43 Nonsense
48 The one addressed
53 Falling-outs
54 Author Glasgow
56 Grind the teeth
58 In a companion way
59 New Haven school
60 Small brook
61 Peruvian
62 Burden
63 Eur. land: abbr.
64 Jazz
65 Sash



هذا من الأصل

U.S. may urge U.N. to plan N. Korea sanctions

Seoul to hold security meeting over nuclear row with North

SEOUL (R) — South Korea called an emergency meeting of ministers for Monday after diplomatic moves to end the North Korean nuclear row broke down and the United States prepared to pile on the pressure.

North Korea walked out of a border meeting with the South Saturday, warning that confrontation on the issue could spread to war.

The United States said it would reschedule its suspended military exercises with South Korea unless the situation changed by Monday. Washington, according to the New York Times, will ask the United Nations Security Council to prepare for sanctions against the Stalinist North.

China said it would urge its ally to open suspect nuclear sites to full international inspection but told an anxious Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to be patient.

A Seoul government official said President Kim Young-Sam would call security-related cabinet ministers to an emergency meeting Monday morning.

He did not elaborate. State radio and Yonhap News Agency said they were expected to discuss resumption of the "Team Spirit" military exercises and ways to support U.N. sanctions.

Mr. Kim this month was quoted as saying he believed international sanctions were now inevitable.

North Korea, which denies Western charges that it may be producing a nuclear bomb from its atomic plants, finally this month allowed inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to visit.

But the team said last week that Pyongyang had not given it unfettered access to nuclear sites.

The United States had held two rounds of talks with the North. It said Team Spirit would be suspended and a third round of talks, scheduled for Geneva Monday, would go ahead only if IAEA inspections were satisfactory and the North agreed to an exchange of envoys with the South to try to settle the row.

Saturday's meeting at the border hamlet of Panmunjom to discuss the envoy swap lasted just 55 minutes.

North Korea said Seoul was not very far from here and that it could be in flames," the South's chief negotiator Song Young-Dae told reporters.

"Confrontations can spread to war. We are prepared to answer back with talks or with war for war," Mr. Song quoted the North Koreans as saying.

President Bill Clinton's national security advisers later met for over three hours. "If circumstances don't change by Monday, Team Spirit will be rescheduled. We will be consulting with the South Koreans on the timing of the exercise," an official said afterwards.

The official also said Washington was consulting with Seoul on when to send Patriot missiles to bolster U.S. defences in South Korea, something that had been shelved when it appeared tensions with the North had eased.

The New York Times, quoting administration officials, said Washington would ask the

Security Council to adopt a measure which would warn North Korea that economic sanctions would be imposed if nuclear inspections are not completed.

China, one of five permanent Council members, has repeatedly opposed sanctions. Prime Minister Li Peng told Mr. Hosokawa in Beijing Sunday: "The international community should take more time to settle the issue. It is extremely important that we take longer to deal with the issue."

"China will continue to work to persuade North Korea to accept full IAEA inspection," Japanese officials quoted Mr. Li as saying.

"In the meantime, it is also important to give North Korea what it wants," Mr. Li said. He did not elaborate but Beijing has called for Washington to establish diplomatic relations with Pyongyang.

Mr. Hosokawa told Mr. Li: "Japan is gravely concerned about the situation and the possibility is increasing that the matter will be referred to the United Nations Security Council... I believe the international community is losing patience."

Cambodian troops say Pailin not yet secured

TRENG COMMUNE, Cambodia (R) — The Cambodian government says it has captured the main base of the Khmer Rouge, but combat-weary troops returning from the front Sunday said it had yet to be secured and spoke of heavy casualties.

The soldiers said heavy fighting had continued during the day around the town of Pailin, which the government said it captured Saturday evening.

They spoke of a confusing military situation, where the biggest dangers were from landmines, increasing guerrilla resistance, and a water shortage.

The soldiers spoke at a checkpoint at Treng Commune, about 30 kilometres east of Pailin town, the closest Western reporters have been allowed to get to the fighting. They told of heavy casualties and several disputed government claims that the town and surrounding areas were under its control.

An army medic said he had treated 50 wounded soldiers in the past few days and a 23-year-old soldier named Chamtha said at least 30 soldiers had been killed from his division now at Doh Kramam, or Virgin's Breast Mountain, overlooking the town.

"Others died from lack of water and I) were cut off and captured by the Khmer Rouge," he said.

The medic said at least two soldiers died after drinking water said to have been poisoned by the guerrillas.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sim Saruon said the army was concentrating on securing the hills around Pailin town.

Asked if it had been captured, he replied: "No. Not yet. We have advanced to within one kilometre of Pailin."

Lieutenant-Colonel Kuch Kim Luom said only about half the area had been captured and there had been serious casualties.

"Maybe we can capture the whole of Pailin today," he said.

Col. Chamtha, dirty and haggard from almost a week in action, was dressed in a torn military jacket and fatigues with a Buddhist prayer scarf tucked under his shirt. He and other soldiers said they had not received their meagre 14 monthly salary for two months and Col. Chamtha said the only food he had been given was pre-cooked rice and a small quantity of dried fish.

He said many guerrilla units had retreated into hills south of Pailin town.

The government announced the seizure of Pailin Saturday and on Sunday expressed confidence it could be held.

"We have thousands of troops — we can control it," said Secretary of State for Information Khieu Kanharith. He said journalists would be taken to visit the area.

U.N. aid convoy enters besieged Bosnia enclave

ZAGREB (R) — A U.N. aid convoy entered the Serb-besieged Muslim enclave of Maglaj in north Bosnia Sunday for the first time since October, U.N. officials said.

Six trucks laden with food and medical aid reached the devastated, near-starving community of 20,000 people after Serb forces who had blocked dozens of previous convoys melted away from a key access road, they told Reuters.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said by telephone from the region that six trucks rolled into Maglaj at 1.30 p.m. (1130 GMT) and began unloading as townsfolk gathered around. "Three other trucks headed for the adjoining Muslim town of Tesanj, part of the Maglaj pocket which has been under Serb artillery siege since last summer and remains one of the few active combat zones in Bosnia."

"The Serbs had pulled back from the southern access road. There were no more checkpoints on it. UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) had put pressure on the Serbs to relieve the siege of Maglaj and let us in. We drove in with no problems at all," the spokesman said.

U.N. troops airdropped into Maglaj last week had identified 40 war-wounded or ill people in urgent need of evacuation and UNHCR hoped to bring most out in convoy vehicles later Sunday.

In Sarajevo, there was a festive atmosphere as the capital's former Yugoslav first division football club prepared to play a U.N. side in the first match in the capital for two years.

U.N. peacekeeping commander General Sir Michael Rose, who was attending the game, said it was evidence that normalisation of Sarajevo was irreversible after two years of war.

The U.N. Security Council is under pressure to declare Maglaj a safe haven under the protection of U.N. peacekeepers.

Gen. Rose was among at

least 8,000 people at the Sarajevo FC Stadium for the club's match against a U.N. team led by Dutch fighter pilot Lieutenant Eric Murer.

The match was made possible by the ceasefire between Serbs and Muslims which has held up in the Bosnian capital for six weeks after almost two years of Serb siege.

Gen. Rose said the improvement was "an irreversible process and I think it is because the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina have had enough of senseless killing and the destruction of their lovely country."

"The political setting has changed throughout the world with respect to Bosnia... I really don't think we can go back having made such a good start."

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic gave the U.N. a written promise his men would not attack the stadium during the game although it is only 200 metres from the city's northern confrontation line.

Sarajevo FC's last game was on March 29, 1992, when they defeat Banja Luka 2-0 in a league match.

Bosnia's civil war between Muslims, Serbs and Croats began a few days later together with the siege of Sarajevo which has cost 10,000 dead and about 55,000 wounded in the capital.

Fans were frisked for weapons at the entrance to the stadium which was guarded by U.N. armoured cars and marksmen on the lookout for snipers who still inflict casualties each day.

The regimental band of Britain's Coldstream Guards, marching onto the pitch in their red tunics and black bearskin helmets, was cheered when it played the Glenn Miller favourite "In the Mood."

The supporters were accompanied to the stadium from the city centre by a local trumpet band and a group of young fans carrying a banner with their "horde of evil" battle emblem.

Bosnian flags bristled everywhere and the young fans took position on the north and northwest terraces closest to the front line.

Helicopter shot down in Northern Ireland

BELFAST (AP) — Continuing IRA violence has killed Anglo-Irish efforts to bring peace to Northern Ireland, the leader of the province's main pro-British party said Saturday — hours before a British army helicopter was blasted out of the sky.

The helicopter was preparing to land at a heavily fortified army barracks in Crossmaglen, a Roman Catholic border town about 50 miles (80 kms) southwest of Belfast, when an apparent Irish Republican Army (IRA) missile struck the craft and sent it crashing in flames onto the landing pad, police said.

A policeman on board was seriously injured and taken to a hospital while the army pilot and two crewmen leaped safely from the copter, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Crossmaglen is centre of lawless borderland nicknamed "bandit country" and noted for frequent IRA ambushes. The army has long moved about the area by helicopter because of the threat of roadside bombs.

The attack brought into sharp focus growing frustrations with the multitude of talk, but no results, stemming from the Northern Ireland peace process.

"It is now commonly accepted fact, within and beyond the Ulster Unionist Party, that the joint declaration has now run its course," James Moynihan told the ruling council of his Protestant-based party before the Crossmaglen attack.

Low turnout reported in Russian regional, local polls

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Russians from St. Petersburg in the west to Kamchatka in the east cast ballots Sunday in regional and local elections and officials said initial reports showed a low voter turnout.

By 11 a.m. in St. Petersburg, only 3.5 per cent of the registered electorate showed up at voting stations. In Kamchatka, in the far east, only 12.5 per cent of registered voters turned out by midday, the Regional Election Commission said.

Elsewhere, officials said that by midday, turnout ranged from six per cent to 50 per cent in the 15 regions where elections were being held, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

At least 25 per cent of voters must cast ballots to validate the results of Sunday's elections. In local elections in five other regions last week, barely 25 per cent of the electorate voted.

The battle between reformers and hardliners that marked Russia's parliamentary elections in December is being repeated in the elections being held almost every Sunday this month.

In St. Petersburg, Russia's second largest city, and until now a pro-reform bastion, communists, democratic reformers and nationalists are all on the ballot for the city assembly.

Only three parties are easily identifiable: ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party, the Communist Party and Great Russia, a nationalist coalition. The rest are new and sport vague names like the Beloved City and All Petersburg.

ROME (R) — Italy goes to the polls to elect a new parliament next week after two of the most tumultuous years in its post-war history, but political analysts say the upheaval may not be over yet.

The March 27 and 28 vote will finally sweep from power a political generation already decimated by scandal and widely despised as a corrupt, self-serving clique.

New majority voting rules will also mark the effective end of Italy's exceptionally pure proportional representation, held responsible for its infamous revolving-door governments.

What the election probably will not do, many analysts believe, is to give the country what it so badly needs — strong, stable government.

"I see only a black hole," said veteran commentator Indro Montanelli. "I imagine a situation of complete ungovernability."

Others predict the most likely outcome will be a hung parliament and another interim government like that of current Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, charged with passing an electoral reform law that can at last be guaranteed to give one party a working



U.S. President Bill Clinton talks to Zlata Filipovic, 13, whose diary of life in Sarajevo has become a bestseller around the world, during an intermission of the taping of ABC television's Children's Town Hall Meeting in the East Room of the White House (AFP photo)

Clinton tells children U.S. is too dangerous

WASHINGTON (R) — President Clinton told a group of children at the White House Saturday that the United States is "too dangerous" and said if he had one wish, it would be for a safe childhood for all of them.

In a televised "town hall" meeting with 50 children, Mr. Clinton said America had been a lot safer when he was growing up and he thought many of today's children had been born into a "pretty lousy situation."

His audience included Annie Nichol, the younger sister of Polly Klaas, who was abducted from her Petaluma, California, home last Oct. 1 and killed. The accused killer has a long criminal record.

Seven-year-old Annie wondered aloud to the president if she would live to grow up, saying, "I just don't feel safe."

"You do live in a country that's too dangerous," Mr. Clinton told her. "And we have to make it less dangerous. And it is a huge obligation that I feel. And I think about it every day."

"You know, I have a little girl too," he said. Referring to his 14-year-old daughter, Chelsea.

Mr. Clinton said among the things that had made America less safe were the proliferation of assault weapons and release from prison of people who have committed several violent felonies. He said he was trying to change this through a proposed anti-crime bill.

"When I was a kid, people beat each other up... Nobody ever shot anybody," the 47-year-old president said.

Mr. Clinton took questions from the children for 90 minutes in a session televised nationally by ABC, which selected the participants. They were all Americans with the exception of Zlata Filipovic, a 13-year-old Sarajevo girl who has written a diary of the Bosnian war.

The children raised subjects ranging from health care and cigarettes to cancer and abortion. One boy made a plea not to raise federal cattle-grazing fees, saying it would destroy his family's ranch.

There were some light-hearted moments, as when the president denied reports that his cat Sox had a bulletproof case. But the session was mostly serious, and safety was a recurring theme.

Mr. Clinton told Zlata that he thought the end of the war in Bosnia was closer, but said it partly depended on whether the Bosnian Serbs agree to sign on to a federation agreement between the Bosnian Croats and Muslims.

"Now the question is, will the Serbs agree to sign on? Will they agree to give up some of the territory they took so that everybody can live with a fair piece of land, and we can stop killing the adults and the children? I think we're closer. And we're working very hard on it," Mr. Clinton said.

One little boy who was not identified demanded to know "why are you fighting a war in another country (Bosnia) when you have a war right here?" — a reference to inner-city violence.

Mr. Clinton quickly explained that "we're not fighting a war there" in Bosnia, because there were no U.S. troops on the ground.

But, he added, "I agree that the war here at home is killing more people than a lot of wars overseas," and said he was trying to fight it with his crime bill.

Tanya Green, 17, of Washington, said officials should come to inner cities "when positive things happen, and not just come when negative things happen."

Mr. Clinton replied: "We at least do come," saying he had walked streets "that you don't normally see the president walking."

But he agreed with Tanya that "generations ahead of you have left you a pretty lousy situation" with broken families, crumbling schools, and jobless neighbourhoods. "We owe you a better deal than you're getting."

If he had one wish, the president said, "I would wish for a safe and secure childhood for all of our people. All of our children."

Inkatha distances itself from scandal

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party sought Sunday to distance itself from a mushrooming dirty-tricks scandal implicating senior policemen in attempts to derail South Africa's march to democracy.

Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's party, which is boycotting next month's first all-race elections, also rejected a compromise suggestion from President F.W. de Klerk that it contest provincial elections in its KwaZulu-Natal heartland.

"The IFP has learned with alarm of the Goldstone Commission report alleging that there is prima facie evidence that senior members of Inkatha have received arms from South African police generals and other high-ranking officers," Inkatha's policy-making Central Working Committee said in a statement.

South African Appeals Court Judge Richard Goldstone told a news conference Friday he had evidence that the deputy police commissioner, General Basie Smit, was among those involved.

Judge Goldstone said fast action was needed to avoid further destabilisation before the April 26-28 elections, which the rival African National Congress is expected to win comfortably.

"This is another in the series of dirty tricks designed to discredit the IFP and its leadership and to warn our members that more negative campaigning against the IFP can be expected in the run-up to the elections," the Inkatha statement said.

Judge Goldstone was appointed by the government to investigate the causes of political violence which has killed about 15,000 people in four years of apartheid reform. ANC and Inkatha rivalry has been blamed for most of the deaths.

Judge Goldstone said most actions listed in his report, including supply of weapons and fuelling of violence on trains and in migrant worker hostels, were directed at helping Inkatha.

President F.W. de Klerk said Gen. Smit, Police Intelligence Chief Major-General Krappies Engelbrecht, Lieutenant-General Johan Le Roux and other officers had been put on compulsory leave following the Goldstone report.

The general told the Sunday Times newspaper they were seeking legal advice about the allegations.

Gen. Smit denied overseeing the manufacture and distribution of weapons to Inkatha. "Not in a million years would it be possible, practical or true that I would get involved in deliberately destabilising my country. It is utter nonsense," he told the newspaper. "I am not a man who deals in allegations, I deal in facts. The Goldstone report refers to information. But information is not proof. No court will convict a man on the strength of information."

The Goldstone report said an experienced officer, identified only as "Q", had made the allegations to investigators.

Tycoon pays \$1.67m for number plate

HONG KONG (R) — A Hong Kong tycoon has paid \$1.67 million for a lucky number-nine car number plate but not without a rumpus from a losing bidder toting a mobile phone, a local newspaper reported. Nine in the local Cantonese dialect sounds like the word for dog and this is the Year of the Dog in the Chinese calendar, making it an auspicious number. But just as the gavel went down in the record-breaking auction at Hong Kong dollars 13 million (\$1.67 million) Saturday, a would-be bidder leapt from the crowd, the Sunday Morning Post reported. "Can you wait? My mobile phone hasn't rung yet," cried an impatient Wong Ka-Lung. "My boss can offer a higher price — up to Hong Kong dollars 15 million (\$1.92 million)." The auction was reopened but Wong left without increasing the bid. "I'm not in a mood to bid again. I can't contact my boss and I'm very upset," he said. The paper said Albert Yeung, chairman of Hong Kong property and investment company the Emperor Group, won the bidding for the plate, formerly owned by his late friend Sir Tang Siu-Kin.

Marisa Berenson to be UNESCO ambassador

PARIS (AP) — Actress Marisa Berenson will be named Goodwill Ambassador for UNESCO, the organisation announced Saturday. The American actress, already a member of UNESCO's Council on Culture, would receive her ambassador's "passport" from the organisation's director general, Federico Mayor in a ceremony Wednesday. Miss Berenson, 46, last year organised a project called "artists and difference," to help handicapped artists reveal their talent. A diplomat's daughter and the granddaughter of Italian designer Elsa Schiaparelli, Miss Berenson took up acting after a long career as a fashion model, starring in Death in Venice, Cabaret and Barry Lyndon. She has also continued in fashion, modeling in Paris shows this year. About 15 artists and performers have already been named goodwill ambassadors by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). They include Pierre Cardin, Placido Domingo, Jean-Michel Jarre, Marcel Marceau and Yehudi Menuhin.

Actress Lena Olin marries director Hallstrom

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Actress Lena Olin and director Lars Hallstrom were married at a secret ceremony in Stockholm, the newspaper Expressen reported Saturday. Olin wore a plain, long, white dress and cowboy boots. Hallstrom wore the conventional white tie and tails during the marriage service. The bride's 7-year-old son August served as best man and only two friends of the couple attended the ceremony at the fashionable Oscar Church. Olin, 38, recently starred with Richard Gere in Mr. Jones and with Robert Redford in Havana. Her latest film was Romeo's Bleeding. Hallstrom, 47, won worldwide acclaim with his Swedish-made film, My Life As A Dog. He recently received strong reviews for his latest U.S. production, What's Eating Gilbert Grape.

15-year-old undelivered mail found

CHICAGO (AP) — Several hours after a stack of undelivered mail was found burning on a footpath, a cache of 20,000 pieces of mail from the 1970s was discovered, postal officials reported. In both cases, most of the mail was junk mail, officials said Friday. The discoveries are the latest in a series of embarrassments that is bringing Postmaster General Marvin Runyon to Chicago Monday at the request of Illinois' U.S. senators. Last month, 40,000 pieces of 2-month-old, undelivered mail, mostly first-class, was found in a letter carrier's delivery truck. Joseph Caraveo, the Postal Service's chief executive officer in Chicago, said the latest discoveries of undelivered mail are "totally unrelated" to each other. The burning mail was discovered by police officers on patrol near a South Side park. The other mail, from the 1970s, was found about two miles (three kms) away. Postal officials did not say who found this batch or where it was discovered.

Norway wins Paralympics

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — Host Norway was the overall winner when the sixth Paralympic Winter Games ended Saturday, with Germany second in the medals count and the United States in third.

And as the games closed, organizers announced that they were sending 10 Olympic and Paralympic champions — including figure skater Katarina Witt of Germany and Nordic skier Vegard Ulvang of Norway — on missions of peace to Sarajevo, the war-torn capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A news release said they were also sending the Paralympic flame to the devastated 1984 Winter Olympic city as a symbol of peace. It said details were being settled, but the flame was to arrive about March 29.

In addition to Witt and Ulvang, eight others were going to Sarajevo on behalf of "Peace Flame '94," Paralympic organizers said. They include Adrienne Rivera of the United States, Bart Veldkamp of the Netherlands and Kristin Otto and Alexander Spitz of Germany.

During the nine days of Paralympic competition in Lille-

hammer, Norway took 29 gold medals, 22 silver and 13 bronze for a total of 64 medals. Second place Germany also took 64 medals, although it's 25 gold and 21 silver did not match Norway.

The U.S. team failed to defend its overall win at the 1992 Paralympics, finishing third with 24 gold, 12 silver and 18 bronze for a total of 43 medals.

About 1,000 athletes and coaches from 31 countries took over many of the arenas built for the 1994 Winter Olympics held last month in the South Norway town of Lillehammer. The handicapped athletes competed in classes reflecting their disabilities.

The Norwegians picked up 10 medals, including six gold, on the Nordic ski trail Saturday to clinch the overall win.

Norwegian skier Aage Jonsberg won his fifth gold of the games Saturday by beating teammate Svein Lilleberg in the men's 20-kilometre classic technique cross-country race in the class for those disabled below one knee. Jonsberg finished in 54 minutes 19.2 seconds, or 19.1 seconds ahead of Lilleberg.

Nets better from floor than foul line in Phoenix

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — When on NBA team shoots better from the floor than from the free throw line it's in trouble. And that's where the New Jersey Nets found themselves Saturday against the Phoenix Suns.

New Jersey made just 20-of-44 free throws as the Suns pulled away for a 105-93 win on balanced scoring led by Dan Majerle's 22 points.

The Nets made 49 per cent of their field goals (34-of-70) compared to 46 per cent from the charity stripe.

A.C. Green and Cedric Cehallos added 18 points apiece while Charles Barkley had 15 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists for Phoenix, which snapped a two-game skid. Green had 13 rebounds.

In San Antonio, David Robinson scored 18 of his 48 points in the fourth quarter to power the Spurs past the Sacramento Kings 107-100.

Robinson added 16 rebounds and six assists in topping the 40-point mark for the sixth time this season.

Dale Ellis, who connected for his 1,000th career 3-pointer midway through the third quarter, netted 18 points for

the Spurs, who have won six of their last eight games.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 12 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and Mario Elie had 21 points and a career-high 15 rebounds to lead the Rockets to a 106-88 triumph over the Detroit Pistons.

The Rockets won their fourth straight game.

First-place Houston (45-17) maintained a one-half game lead over San Antonio in the Midwest and moved to within one-half game of Seattle for the best record in the league.

In Miami, Glen Rice scored 20 of his 33 points in the second half to lead the sizzling Heat to a 106-95 triumph over the undermanned Cleveland Cavaliers.

Rice was 13-of-17 from the field, including 5-of-7 from 3-point range, and Miami made 59 per cent of its field goals.

Miami (37-27), which has won four straight games and is 19-6 since January 27, moved within one victory of the franchise record of 38, set in 1991-92.

In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 35 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead the New York Knicks to a 105-91 vic-

tory over the Boston Celtics.

The Knicks have won a season-high nine straight games but allowed 90 points for the first time in that span.

The Knicks scored 16 consecutive points to open the fourth quarter on the way to completing their first season sweep (4-0) of Boston since 1970-71.

At Indiana, Rik Smits scored 19 points, including two free throws with 35 seconds left to snap a 103-103 tie, as the Pacers held on to beat the Utah Jazz 107-103.

Reggie Miller, who scored 17 points, and Sam Mitchell each hit a free throw in the final seconds for the Pacers, who squandered a 19-point lead.

In Dallas, Latrell Sprewell scored 24 points to lead four players with 20 or more points as the Golden State Warriors handed the Mavericks their 11th straight loss 116-107.

Chris Gatling (9-of-11 from the field) added 21 points and 15 rebounds in 28 minutes off the bench, while Chris Mullin and Billy Owens chipped in 20 points apiece for Golden State.

The Warriors won for only the third time in seven games.

Graf loses set, but wins Lipton Championships title

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf lost her first set of the year, but won the battle 4-6 6-1 6-2 over ninth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of Belarus Saturday in the \$3.3 million Lipton Championships final.

The amazing Graf had just set a record when she won the semifinals over American Lindsay Davenport Thursday — becoming the first player in 10 years to win 27 consecutive matches without dropping a set. Monica Seles held the previous record, having won 26 consecutive matches without losing a set between 1990 Lipton and 1990 French Open.

The top-ranked Graf has won all 28 matches she's played in 1994 and 32 overall matches since losing to Spaniard Conchita Martinez in the finals of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia last November.

Saturday's win makes Graf the first player to win three consecutive titles on tour since Martina Navratilova in 1990. Graf just won Indian Wells, the Virginia Slims of Florida and the Lipton Championships.

She also won the coveted Australian Open and Pan Pacific event earlier this year to bring her career titles count to 84.

Now all Graf wants is to rest. "I'm really tired of tennis at the moment, to tell you the truth," Graf said, after winning the \$150,000 first prize. "I'm ready for a couple of days off, for myself. It's been ten-

nis, tennis, tennis. I need a break from that."

Ironically, Graf's match-winning streak began with the 14th-ranked Zvereva when she beat the Belarus native in the opening round of the Virginia Slims championships last November.

Despite the loss, Zvereva will be remembered as the first player to take a set from the unconquerable Graf in 1994. The capacity crowd was well aware of Zvereva's achievement after she won the first set they treated her to a standing ovation.

"That was huge," Zvereva said of the crowd support. "I appreciated it so much. It was so loud. I don't know the reason. But I liked it a lot."

The two women have played each other 14 times and this was only the third set Zvereva has ever captured over Graf. Zvereva, who won \$75,000, did not have an easy time en route to winning the first set.

She took the edge by breaking Graf's serve at 30-40 in the fifth game with a winning backhand return.

But, Zvereva needed five set points on her serve in the 10th

game to accomplish the feat. It was only when a Graf forehand sailed long that Zvereva had the one set lead.

Graf played a rather subpar match, not reaching her normal level of superiority.

"It was so obvious what I was doing wrong," Graf said. "I didn't try to get into longer points, in the first set I was trying too much to go for the lines. I needed to get into some rallies."

Graf tied Zvereva with 35 unforced errors for the match — 17 of Graf's errors were in the first set. She improved her play in the final two sets — having only nine unforced errors in each of the remaining two sets.

Graf had 31 winners in the match, while Zvereva only had 17. The tide turned in Graf's favour almost from the outset of the second set. Zvereva only held serve once, in the second game, of the middle set.

In the third set, Graf took a 4-1 lead with two service breaks. Zvereva recouped one service break in the sixth game, but Graf won the final two games to remain undefeated in 1994.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wachter takes GS crown

VAIL, Colo. (AP) — Collecting another crystal trophy Saturday, Venerable Vreni Schneider has enough of the precious glass to open a business back home in Switzerland. Schneider officially clinched the women's World Cup overall title Saturday with one race remaining in the season. Austria's Anita Wachter claimed the giant slalom title for the season, while teammate Christian Mayer held off fast-climbing Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway to take the men's GS crown. Schneider, whose 50 World Cup victories trail only Austrian Anne-Marie Moser-Proell's 62 wins on the all-time women's list, gained the second overall title of her 10-year career. Schneider, 29, could have backed into the title, since he only threat, Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg, did not compete in Saturday's giant slalom because of an injury. Instead, the Swiss ace finished a solid second to Martina Ertl of Germany in the race.

Golden season continues for Koss

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands (AP) — Norway's Johann Olav Koss continued his golden season Saturday, winning a 5,000-metre race and taking the lead for the 5,000-10,000 World Cup title. Koss won his race in 6 minutes, 42.32 seconds, beating out local hero Rintje Ritsma by six seconds and overtaking the Dutchman for the season lead by one point.

Popov continues record spree

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany (R) — Olympic champion Alexander Popov of Russia cracked the men's 100 metres freestyle short-course world record Saturday for the fourth time this year. He shattered the 47-second barrier to clock 46.74 and continue an astonishing run in which he has improved the 100 freestyle world short-course mark in each of the four World Cup meetings he has contested in 1994.

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BE WARNED BY THE BARD

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 3 7
♥ 8 8
♦ 7 4 8
♣ Q J 9 6 2

EAST
♠ 10 8 6 3
♥ K Q 10 7 4
♦ 6 5 2
♣ K 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 6 2
♥ A J 5
♦ A 10 8
♣ A 10 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of 7

The post-Alexander Popov must have been a whist player. The line:

"A little learning is a dangerous thing," had to refer to the players at

Bath, England, a resort famous for its high-stake gambling. It certainly applies to South, our declarer at

three no trump, on this hand.

The bidding was unremarkable.

With a full-bodied 16 points, South wasted no time in accepting partner's

invitational raise to two no trump.

West's lead of the queen of hearts was the mark of a good player. It asked partner to unblock the jack or, if unable to do so, to give count.

East's two of hearts showed an odd number of cards in the suit, and South followed with the five. This

maneuver, known as the Bath Coup, since that is where it originated,

forced West to discontinue the suit.

West shifted to a diamond. East played the jack and declarer had a

choice of losing options. A hold up of the ace would permit East to re-

vert to hearts and, with the king of clubs in the West hand, the contract

was doomed to defeat; winning the ace would set up the diamond suit

for the defenders, with the same result.

The Bath Coup is the correct play on many occasions, but obviously

this was not one of them. Declarer should have taken the ace of hearts,

crossed to dummy with the jack of spades and run the queen of clubs.

The best West can do is allow the queen to win, but when East shows

out on the next round, declarer rises with the ace and forces out the king. Since dummy's spade ace is an en-

try, South collects at least four spades, four clubs and the two red

aces. Quite a swing!

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Andretti wins opening Indycar race

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia (R) — American Michael Andretti, smarting from his failure to make the grade in Formula One, made a triumphant return to Indycar racing by winning the season's opening race in near-darkness Sunday.

Andretti, 31, who quit after just one season as Ayrton Senna's teammate at McLaren, outlasted defending Indycar champion Nigel Mansell to win the series opener in Australia. "This victory means so much to me after what I went through last year," said Andretti, Indycar champion in 1991.

Andretti took the lead on the opening lap and held off veteran Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi to win by more than four seconds as the light faded badly under gathering storm clouds.

The poor conditions prompted Indycar officials to cut short the scheduled 65-lap race by 10 laps after consultations with drivers.

"I was starting to call for an early finish for five or six laps," said Andretti, whose father, Mario, completed by a memorable day for the family by

finishing third.

"I started to miss a couple of corners and it was getting to the point where it could have been dangerous. They (the officials) made a good call."

"It was getting so dark out there it was difficult to see," he added.

But it was a day of frustration for Mansell, who wasted pole position to finish a disappointing ninth after twice spinning out of control.

The 40-year-old Englishman, who won here last year in his Indycar debut, described the race as "crazy."

"I can honestly say I have never been in a race like that in my life," said Mansell, who finished more than a lap behind the winner.

"The weather conditions, which nobody can control, turned the race into a bit of a lottery."

The race began at the third attempt, more than two hours late, following a succession of setbacks.

After an initial delay for a tyre change because of rain, the race was further disrupted by a series of multiple collisions during the warm-up laps.

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TENDER'S NOTICE

The Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education announces the extension of the closing date of the following tenders until 10.00 a.m. of April 12, 1994 instead of 10.00 a.m. of March 21, 1994.

Tender's No.	Title
1/94	Furniture (Local tender)
2/94	Computer
3/94	Lab. Equipment
4/94	Audio Visual Aids.
5/94	Sports Equipment
6/94	Arts & Craft Equipment
7/94	Office Equipment

Head of Special
Tenders Committee

Bentt career in doubt

LONDON (R) — American heavyweight champion Michael Bentt's future in boxing was in doubt Sunday after doctors revealed he suffered brain injuries during his world title defeat by Britain's Herbie Hide.

Bentt collapsed in his dressing-room and was taken to hospital after Hide had snatched his World Boxing Organisation (WBO)

heavyweight crown with a seventh round knock-out Saturday. Doctors found he had a "concussive brain injury" which could result in permanent damage if he entered the ring again.

Bentt's manager, Stan Hoffman, said would instruct Bentt not to continue boxing.

Speaking at the Royal London Hospital, where Bentt is recovering in a neurosurgical ward, Hoffman said: "He's a warrior. The first thing he's going to say is I feel fine."

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PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	
Jean-Claude Van Damme HARD TARGET Shows: 11:00, 1:00, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Adel Emam in TERRORIST Shows: 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' DEMOLITION MAN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' DENNIS THE MENACE Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15		Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden X Forbidden		Watch for the surprise — The next play....	
								Since the actors are abroad the theatre is closed It will re-open on April 6, 1994 for two weeks in the last performances of: "Arab Summit Conference"	

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE tells Arafat time not right for visit

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has told Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat that the time is not right for a visit he planned to make to the Gulf state. The fresh snub to the PLO leader, who has been trying for more than two years to regain favour among Gulf Arabs angered by his sympathy for Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, was reported on Sunday by the official Emirates news agency WAM. "We did not invite him. He wanted (to visit) but we postponed his visit and told him 'you have more important things now,'" WAM quoted UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan as saying in an interview with the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat. Sheikh Zayed said Mr. Arafat was told "your visit is not what is important. What is important is for you to put your own house in order." Asked if a date for visit has been set, he replied: "No." His comments were in response to persistent news reports of an imminent visit by Mr. Arafat to the UAE.

Turkey says Iran hands over rebels

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said Sunday Iran had turned over 14 separatist Kurdish rebels who escaped over their joint border from a sweeping military operation in the east. "Iranian authorities have shown their determination for the joint struggle against the separatist organisation," Interior Minister Nabil Memise said in a statement. He said the rebels of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) had escaped to the Iranian side from a military drive begun last week mainly in the Igdir and Agri provinces. Five of the rebels had been wounded, Iranian authorities also returned the bodies of two PKK guerrillas, Mr. Memise said. It was the first official report that an accord reached between Turkey and Iran in Ankara in December on a joint stand against the PKK had borne fruit.

Israel, Cyprus say Uganda arms 'clean'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and Cyprus insisted on Sunday that Israeli weapons on a Nigerian Boeing 707 stranded in Cyprus were on their way to Uganda. In Uganda on Saturday, the government-run New Vision newspaper quoted officials as denying all knowledge of an Israeli arms shipment on the plane which landed in Cyprus last Tuesday. "It's a deal between Israeli Military Industries and Uganda," said Oded Ben-Ami, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "It had all the permits," he said. "It's kosher." In Cyprus, where suspicion persisted among diplomats that the arms were bound for another destination in Africa — possibly rebels in southern Sudan — civil aviation director Michael Herodotou said: "The arms are going to Uganda. The foreign ministry has checked. The deal is clean." He had earlier told reporters: "The arms were bought from Israel by the Ugandan government."

Kuwait will stay with Patriot missiles

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will not reconsider its purchase of Patriot air defence missiles despite the U.S. army's choice of another weapon as a next generation replacement, the defence minister was on Saturday reported as saying. "The minister of defence, Sheikh Ali Al Sabah, said the ministry precluded reviewing or retreating from buying a number of Patriot missile batteries after news that the American forces have adopted new anti-missile missiles," Al Anba reported. "The minister said in a statement to Al Anba that the new type of missile is still being tested for effectiveness, while the currently adopted and used American units are the advanced Patriots which the Kuwaiti forces will also use." Kuwait is buying five Patriot batteries comprising about 210 missiles for an estimated \$1 billion.

4 Israeli universities close after strike

TEL AVIV (AP) — Four major Israeli universities officially closed Sunday after negotiations broke down with professors striking for two months. Libraries locked their doors, administration shut down and maintenance men stayed home at Hebrew University in occupied Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, Bar Ilan University outside Tel Aviv and Haifa University, said spokeswoman Kalket Mossek of Hebrew University. But electricity was left on and incoming telephone lines were open. At Hebrew University one door was left open to allow professors to reach their labs and offices. Ms. Mossek said. Professors went on strike in mid-January against low salaries. They have reportedly been offered a 40 per cent increase, but are now negotiating criteria for setting differential salaries, according to Israeli newspapers. Ms. Mossek said that negotiations were to continue with Finance Minister Avraham Shochat late Sunday.

Israeli siege of Lebanon village lifted

NABATIYEH (AP) — Israeli troops and their militia allies on Sunday lifted a three-day blockade of vehicle traffic in and out of a village bordering Israeli-occupied territory in South Lebanon, security sources said. On Friday, an Israeli army unit assisted by surrogate militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) set up a rock barricade and a three-metre-high earth mound on the sole road to the village of Yohmor. The joint force set up a checkpoint, banning two-way traffic except by foot. Shortly after midday (1000 GMT) Sunday, about 50 Israeli soldiers in two armoured carriers and two jeeps escorted a bulldozer that cleared the road to vehicle traffic, said the sources. There was no explanation for the change of heart by Israel and the SLA. But a Beirut radio station said U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley's extensive contacts led to the decision to lift the siege.

Israel's national debt up slightly

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's national debt increased slightly in 1993 and its annual average amounted to 117 per cent of the gross national product, the Bank of Israel announced Sunday. At year-end, debt from domestic sales of government bonds amounted to 167.3 billion shekels (\$56.3 billion). Debt owed to foreigners was \$20.1 billion after nearly \$2 billion in U.S.-guaranteed loans were received last year. Total debt of \$247.4 billion shekels (\$76.4 billion) amounted to a 5 per cent nominal increase over last year, or 3.5 per cent with the shekel's devaluation taken into account. Scheduled repayments this year amount to 21.1 billion shekels (\$7.1 billion), or about 17 per cent of the national budget of 125 billion shekels (\$42 billion). The average debt during 1993 was 214.1 billion shekels (\$72 billion), the statement said. The national product for the year was 183 billion shekels (\$61.5 billion). The shekel was expected to be devalued against the dollar by about six per cent this year, according to Bank of Israel forecasts.

Four arrested in Cyprus mosque attacks

NICOSIA (AP) — Authorities were holding four foreign students in connection with two recent attacks on Nicosia mosques as well as a series of thefts, police said Sunday. The Cyprus college students were arrested Friday night after a guard reported them behaving suspiciously in the vicinity of a third mosque in the Greek Cypriot sector of Nicosia. Police said they picked the students up after discovering they were driving a stolen car. Police said they found items in the car and in a subsequent search of one of the suspect's homes that could be connected to a series of burglaries in and around a Nicosia pedestrian mall last week. Police did not say why they believed the four could be involved in the mosque attacks, nor did they suggest a possible motive. A court Saturday remanded the four — Salaheddin Bilal, 23, of Syria; Usuan Uvshat, 18, of Pakistan; Larren Joel Fernandes, 22, of India; Ghassan Mohammad Martini, 20, of Lebanon — for six days while police investigated their possible involvement in the attacks. A bomb exploded Tuesday outside a small, disused mosque in the Greek Cypriot sector of Nicosia. The explosion came less than a month after a suspicious fire at another mosque in the Greek half of the divided capital.

King visits wounded in Hebron mosque

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visited Palestinians wounded in the Feb. 25 attack at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron who are now undergoing treatment at the Al Hussein Medical Centre.

King Hussein, who was accompanied on the visit by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir, was reassured on the conditions of the wounded and the progress of their treatment.

The wounded Palestinians thanked King Hussein for his assistance and for Jordan's stands on the Palestine cause and holy places in the occupied territories.

Immediately after the mosque attack, in which dozens of Palestinians were killed, the King set up a higher national committee entrusted with the task of raising funds for the victims of the massacre and announced a personal donation of JD 100,000. He also issued directives requesting that all possible facilities be offered to the wounded and that all Jordanian hospitals receive them and offer medical treatment for them free of charge.

Four of the wounded are currently receiving medical treatment at Al Hussein Medical Centre, and more



His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday speaks with one of the Palestinians wounded in the Feb. 25 attack by a Jewish settler on the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron and now hospitalized in Amman. (AFP photo)

are expected to arrive soon. A delegation representing the families of those killed in the mosque attack arrived in Amman Sunday via the King Hussein Bridge.

The delegation includes Hashem Al Natsheh, Arif Al Jaabari, Abdul Wahab

Ghaith, Fadl Abdeen and Abdul Mahdi Maraga. Three other members of the delegation were not allowed to cross the bridge by the Israeli occupation authorities. The Ibrahim mosque's imam, Adel Idris, was among those banned.

Geagea denies role in church bombing

BEIRUT (R) — The leader of Lebanon's biggest civil war rightist militia denied his followers bombed a church and killed 11 Maronite worshippers last month.

Samir Geagea, head of the Lebanese Forces (LF), said the army's seizure of two of its buildings on Saturday amounted to accusing the LF of taking part in the February 27 bombing of the Church of Our Lady of Deliverance at Jounieh, north of Beirut.

"The Lebanese forces gave 10,000 martyrs to defend the church. Now they accuse it of bombing a church. It is not possible," Mr. Geagea told a news conference.

"The blast was the latest in a long series of bombings during and after Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, but the attack on people at worship was unprecedented."

It aroused fears of a deliberate campaign to renew sectarian strife in Lebanon and provoked a manhunt for the killers.

No bombers have ever been identified to Lebanon since the war began but this time the investigation has brought daily leaks by politicians and the press pointing accusing fingers at past or present members of the LF.

Any revelation that Christians were involved would be a huge blow to Lebanon's one-dominant Christian minority, which emerged weakened from the conflict and is still boycotting post-war politics.

There has been widespread speculation that the bombers acted as agents for Israel to distract international attention from the Hebron massacre two days earlier of Muslim worshippers by an Israeli gunman.

The LF had close ties with Israel during the civil war and sent many of its men for training there. It also bitterly opposes the right-wing Christian Falange Party whose headquarters was bombed in December.

A statement by the army on Saturday as it took over LF headquarters at Zouk, near Jounieh, and an office at Tabarja further north, said investigators believed the two buildings were used as hide-outs by the bombers, possibly in both attacks.

Mr. Geagea has been held for days in the mountains north of Beirut in his party headquarters, surrounded by army roadblocks and protesting against alleged victimisation by the government.

He accused the government on Saturday of exploiting the church bomb to repress the LF, which disarmed after the civil war and registered as a political party.

"It is the final episode in suppressing political freedom. They are using the excuse of security events to practice political pressure," Mr. Geagea said. "They are trying to eliminate the opposition."

He said all LF members arrested during the manhunt had been released.

The LF sees itself as the toughest Christian opponent of the present government and denounces the continued presence of 30,000 Syrian troops in the country.

Information Minister Michel Samaha said on Saturday the investigation would be completed within hours or days.

Police officer detained after killing teenager in driving licence incident

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Public Security officer who shot and killed an unarmed 18-year-old boy during the Eid Al Fitr holidays is currently being detained pending the outcome of an internal police investigation, official sources said.

The officer, whose name and rank were withheld, was on duty on the last day of Ramadan when police patrols were tightening their watch on teenage drivers who usually take advantage of the festivities to drive their family cars.

According to the family and friends of the victim, Hamourabi Ne'meh, the boy took his brother's car to a garage in Wadi Seer for maintenance on March 12. Ne'meh and a mechanic took the car for a test drive around the block when a police patrol car stopped them for speeding and asked Ne'meh for his driving licence.

Ne'meh apparently did not have a driving licence, and in the ensuing scene that followed, the boy was shot at

three times, with the last bullet hitting him in the abdomen. The police investigation is trying to determine exactly what happened, and whether the police officer was justified in using his weapon against the boy.

After sustaining the wound to his stomach, Ne'meh was taken by a police car to Al Hussein Medical Centre where he died three hours later in the operations room.

One of Ne'meh's brothers, who was at the time at a restaurant nearby, spotted a policeman driving his brother's car. "Sensing that Hamourabi was in some kind of trouble, he went to the Wadi Seer police station to ask about him. He was told that there were no reports of him," said 'Issam' Hamourabi's eldest brother.

Going to the medical centre, family members were informed by a nurse that a young man with Hamourabi's descriptions was admitted to the operations room in critical condition.

"They gave him 22 blood units, but he was gone," said the grief-stricken Issam.

Jalal Abbasi, the family's

lawyer, said that in a "judicial accident" as this one, the perpetrator, be him/her a civil or military person, has to be apprehended and an investigation committee formed to investigate the incident. The committee then refers the case to the concerned court for action.

Mr. Abbasi quoted a public security official as saying the case was under investigation.

Amman Police Chief Brigadier General Abdullah Hababeh told the Jordan Times that the investigation will determine whether the officer had acted in accordance with standard police practice, if his life was threatened, or his action was a gross overreaction to a minor offence.

"There's an investigation going on which should verify the truth. If there is an over-reaction on the part of the officer, it will be determined in the investigation."

In an obituary published in local newspapers Sunday, the aggrieved family expressed confidence "justice will take its course in a society where the law eventually prevails."

2 Italian journalists slain in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU — Two journalists for an Italian television network were shot to death Sunday when bandits apparently tried to hijack their vehicle on the increasingly mean streets of Mogadishu.

Reporter Ilaria Alpi, 28, and cameraman Miran Krovatin, 45, of RAI-3 were gunned down in their pickup truck near the former Italian embassy in the heart of this seaside capital.

They were travelling with a Somali driver and three armed guards, none of whom was hurt, Major Chris Budge, a U.N. military spokesman, said the pair's guards had tried to resist the holdup.

Another reporter nearby but out of sight of the shooting said he heard two long bursts of automatic gunfire, but left the area without realising that two colleagues had been hit.

Gunfire is heard so frequently in Mogadishu that it becomes an almost unnoticed part of the city's background noise.

Alpi spent weeks in Somalia last year covering the Italian role in the U.N. peacekeeping mission. She was sent back two weeks ago to cover the withdrawal of the Italian, American and other Western contingents.

The last 330 Italian troops are scheduled to leave Mogadishu by ship on Wednesday. The Americans will complete their withdrawal on Friday.

Germany, France, Belgium and a number of other nations have already pulled out (see page 2).

As the western nations have gradually withdrawn their troops, lawlessness has steadily increased in a country scornfully known by its neighbours for centuries as the home of the "shifto" or bandit.

U.N. peacekeepers have not patrolled Mogadishu's streets since June, when 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed by Somali militiamen in a series of ambushes and the humanitarian effort turned into a small-

scale war.

Alpi was shot in the head and cameraman Krovatin was hit in the chest, witnesses said.

"They were just shot from a blue landrover. It was not a robbery. They just wanted to kill them," said Giovanni Prozio, a friend of the victims and a correspondent for the Italian magazine Panorama.

Somali residents said there were rumours that the murders were over a labour dispute. But Maj. Budge said the killers wanted to steal the journalists' car.

"The bandits wanted to steal the vehicle. The journalists refused and the bandits opened fire," Maj. Budge told reporters.

The victims' bodies were flown by helicopter to the Italian aircraft carrier Garibaldi off Mogadishu, Italian reporters said the bodies would be flown home.

Italian peacekeepers left the embassy on March 10 as they withdrew from their 15-month mission to try to save Somalia from famine and clan war.

The area around the embassy has been the scene of repeated shooting incidents between gunmen and some 40 police stationed in the building.

Somali residents said disgruntled Somalis who once occupied the embassy during a previous evacuation wanted to claim the building back.

Five journalists, including two Reuters photographers and a cameraman with Reuters Television, were killed by Somalis last July.

Many fear Somalia will slide back into clan war and banditry as U.S. and other Western contingents pull out of the operation, which has killed dozens of peacekeepers and hundreds of Somalis.

Egypt confirms execution of two in airbase case

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian authorities, in their first public statement on the case, said Sunday they had executed two men convicted by court martial of planning to blow up a military installation.

The men, Lieutenant Medhat Al Tahawi and a civilian named as Mohammad Said Saleh, were members of the Muslim militant movement Jihad (holy struggle), a statement from the military justice department said.

It said they were executed on Sunday after the authorities rejected their appeal against the conviction.

Military sources had said Tahawi and another officer were executed in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria last Thursday for planting explosives at Sidi Barrani airbase in the hope of assassinating President Hosni Mubarak during a visit.

The militant group Gamaa Al Islamiya, which is an offshoot of Jihad, published Lieutenant Tahawi's last will and testament on Friday, suggesting that it too believed he was already dead by then.

The military justice department named a third man sentenced to death in the same case as Hamada Mohammad Lutfi, a civilian who is on the run and who was tried in his absence.

"They took the opportunity of the conscription of the first defendant (Tahawi) and agreed with him to provide him with explosives for him to use them to sabotage a military installation inside Egypt," it said.

"They did in fact bring him these explosives but he was caught before the explosives were seized before the operation was carried out," it added.

It did not mention a plot to assassinate the president.

In a statement on Sunday, the Gamaa Al Islamiyah claimed responsibility for a bomb which damaged a Cairo bank on Saturday evening and said its members planted the bomb in retaliation for the

UAE may take Iran to Hague court

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan has criticised Iran for refusing to discuss sovereignty over three disputed Gulf islands and said international arbitration was the best solution.

Sheikh Zayed was speaking in an interview with the London-based Al Hayat newspaper. A full text was published on Sunday by the official Emirates news agency WAM.

"When a man seizes the right (of others) and claims it is his own, how can you negotiate with him?" he asked. "But if a man says I own (something) and I have proof of my right then the others should also present their proof ... only arbitration determines which proof is correct."

Asked if that meant going to the international Court of Justice in the Hague, he said: "Yes."

Both Iran and the United Arab Emirates claim sovereignty over the strategic islands of Abu Musa and the Lesser and Greater Tunbs.

The late Shah of Iran occupied the islands near major shipping lanes just inside the Gulf in 1971 shortly before the seven lower Gulf states gained full independence from Britain and formed the United Arab Emirates. Iran later made a deal with the ruler of UAE member Sharjah for joint control of Abu Musa.

The dispute flared again in April 1992 when Iran's Islamic government tightened its grip on Abu Musa, leading to a revival of the UAE claim to all three islands.

The UAE cancelled a ministerial visit to Iran in September last year, saying there was no point to negotiations if Tehran continued to insist the islands were Iranian and refused to discuss sovereignty.

Tehran repeatedly has said it would welcome direct negotiations with Abu Dhabi over the dispute, but insists it has sovereignty over the islands. It has already in the past

World Court with a suit against the United States seeking compensation for the 1988 downing of an Iranian jetliner over the Gulf in which 290 people were killed. Washington contends the downing of the Airbus in the final weeks of the Iran-Iraq war was an accident and that a U.S. warship mistook the passenger plane for an attacking warplane.

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COLUMN

Remains of last tsar to be buried in July

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — The remains of seven members of Russia's last imperial family, the Romanovs, will be given a formal burial on July 3 if government officials sanction it, a senior Russian Orthodox Church official said.

The ceremony would take place at the Cathedral of the Peter and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg, Metropolitan Ioann of St. Petersburg and Ladozhskaya was quoted as telling a local newspaper. The burial could finally lay to rest one of the most violent and controversial chapters in Russian history.

Russian and British forensic experts are convinced of the authenticity of the remains of the Romanov family, found last year in a mass grave near the Urals city of Yekaterinburg. A Russian government commission, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Yarov, now must confirm that the remains were indeed those of Tsar Nicholas II, his German-born wife Alexandra and their five children. The family was shot on the orders of Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin on July 17, 1918. Metropolitan Ioann.

St. Petersburg's leading religious figure, said the planned burial would coincide with All Saint's Week and would be dedicated to Russian martyrs, the newspaper Evening St. Petersburg said. However, fifty but vocal monarchist organisations in Russia's second city have expressed dissatisfaction with the burial site. The Romanovs were buried in the Tsarskoye Selo, his birthplace, outside St. Petersburg, spokesman Yuri Alexeyev told Reuters. It was not clear whether the bodies of three servants, whose remains were also in the grave, would be buried with the seven Romanovs.

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